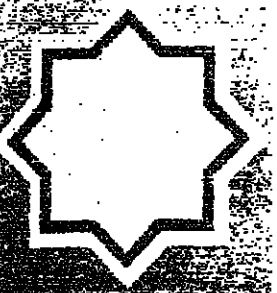


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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Peace process in tatters after wave of suicide bombers

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat may turn out to be the main victims of Hamas bomb blasts that have rocked Israel and put the peace process in the balance.

By Glenn Frankel

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
WASHINGTON—With four suicide-bomb attacks in nine days, Palestinian extremists have succeeded in blowing up the *quid pro quo* that is the cornerstone of the Middle East peace process: Israel gets better security for its citizens and the opportunity to become a normal, stable and prosperous society in return for granting Palestinians control over their own lives and territory.
This simple formula was a historic breakthrough for two peoples who had been locked in a 100-year-old blood feud over a small, arid, resource-starved strip of rock and sand that each side claimed exclusively. Now the formula lies shattered alongside Israel's self-confidence. When the bombs go off, the first question everyone in Israel asks is: Where is my family? When a parent has to fear for the safety of children in the heart of Israel's largest city, everything else becomes irrelevant.
The peace process has helped give Israel the prosperity and stability to build the kind of post-industrial, consumer-oriented society—complete with Burger Kings, Tower Records shops and Honda dealerships—that Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center epitomizes. For five years, Israelis have enjoyed steady economic growth and a

gathering sense of normalcy as trade barriers to them have fallen and more and more countries have extended diplomatic recognition.
With the end of the Cold War, the surrounding Arab states lost their main source of military support—the Soviet bloc—and have been forced to the negotiating table. The process has been slow and often painful, and many Israelis have harbored doubts. But most had come to accept it as irreversible, and polls showed they were prepared to back Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his Labor Party-led government in national elections scheduled for May.
But a soaring standard of living and the pageantry of treaty-signing ceremonies become meaningless when people do not



feel safe. "The crazy bottom line is things are much better than they've ever been," said Levi Weisman-Kelman, an American-born rabbi who lives in Jerusalem. "National security is better than ever; we



have peace with our neighbors and even with most Palestinians. But our personal security is totally gone."
Israel has fought five full-scale wars in its 48-year history and has fought for dec-

ades against attacks. But it has not faced this kind of sustained, internal assault on civilians since the early 1940s days, when Jewish guerrillas fought both British rule and Arab nationalists, and bombings of movie houses and marketplaces were commonplace there.
The bombs of the past nine days have traumatized Israel in a way that previous attacks never seemed to. Part of the reason is in the numbers: at least 60 people have been killed in that span, a new and hideous record for a country of fewer than 6 million in which everyone seems to know everyone else. Part of it is timing: the bombs come four months after the assassination by a Jewish gunman of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the former war hero and Zionist patriarch who had guided Israel through the turbulent peace process with calloused but reassuring hands. And they come just as Peres—Rabin's successor and partner in negotiating peace with Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization—was launching a reelection campaign in which he hoped for a mandate to finish the process.
"We're not only burying 70 people, we could also be burying Shimon Peres's vision of a new Middle East and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian state and the chances for a new Labor government," said Harry

Wall, director of the Jerusalem office of the Anti-Defamation League. "Peres and Arafat knew they were chained together, and like two suicide lovers they may be going over the cliff together."
Peres has pledged "war in every sense of the word" against what he called terrorists. That could mean a return to the cruel punishments of the old blood feud: the pre-dawn raids, assassinations, house demolitions, detentions without trial and physical "pressure" against prisoners that were regular features of Israeli military operations against Palestinian militants during nearly three decades of occupation. It also means treating Palestinian-controlled territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as another Lebanon—zones that Israeli forces enter and operate in with impunity, even if it further destabilizes Arafat's shaky rule.
Those kinds of factors no longer matter, said Wall. "People want blood and vengeance, and now they'll get it."
In war, Israelis unite. Many believe Peres will feel compelled to postpone the election until October and invite opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu and his Likud Party to join a government of national unity. There is precedent: in 1967, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol invited Menachem Begin and his small Herut party into the government in the harrowing days before the Six-Day War.
It was highly symbolic that the Israeli government announced it was ordering home its delegation to exploratory peace talks with Syria and indefinitely suspending the discussions. For more than four years, Israelis had pushed to keep negotiations going at all costs; Rabin always insisted he would never let terrorist actions deter him from pursuing Israel's best interests at the bargaining table. Even when they were angry or frightened, most Israelis respected his tenacity.
But Rabin is gone, and there is no political leader left with the credibility to absorb the stinging and emotional criticisms of Israel's angry right wing and still insist that the peace process go on. ■

A week of defections in the Lower House

Islamist opposition camp reduced to 14

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer
THIS WEEK'S debate over the government's policy program and the confidence vote that followed by Lower House deputies was marked by defections on the opposition and government sides. Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti received an unexpected 57 votes of support to 19 votes against—the highest number of favorable votes received by any premier since the government of Mudar Badran was voted in with a record 62 votes in its favor.
The voting results pointed to a serious rift in the opposition camp, but that was offset partially by the surprise defection of two pro government deputies, Nazeem Ammarin and Abdul Majeed Al Aqash, to the opposition's sides. The two independent deputies crossed over in protest over the formation of the Kabariti cabinet.
Speaker Saad Hail Sour broke with tradition by casting his vote in honor of deputy Nawaf Al Qadi who died after a heart attack moments after he delivered his statement in which he announced he was supporting the government. Mr. Sour voted for the government.
But unlike other confidence sessions, in which designate

prime ministers underwent heavy scrutiny and painful bashing by the opposition, observers believe Mr. Kabariti got off lightly. The reason could be his liberal and ambitious policy statement and his charismatic style of extending his hand to the deputies and appealing to them to work together with him.
The biggest surprise of the week was the apparent crumbling of the 17-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) bloc. While Mr. Kabariti's behind the scenes negotiations with IAF deputies failed to win the bloc over, it did create a rift within the movement. Their position was described as "holding an olive branch in one hand and a soft hammer in the other."
Their oracle was presented by IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansour, who offered what was described as the alternative policy to that of the gov-



Kabariti: Divide and rule?

ernment. He stated the IAF's principal opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and reaffirmed the party's rejection of the government's alleged interference in Iraqi internal affairs. As expected, the Islamist deputy asked the government to apply Islamic Sharia and criticized the policy statement for failing to reiterate its commitment to Islamic script.

But the IAF was in a mood for bargaining and made 15 demands touching on local, Arab and international issues.
Sources told *The Star* that Mr. Kabariti was not pleased with the Islamic bloc statement. In a surprise response, he gave Irbid Islamist deputy Abdul Raheem Al Ukour a short letter in which he stated that "we came to you with a

white flag, but you thought it was a surrender.... We wanted communication, but you wanted separation. You have your own grassroots, so do we."
So for the first time the IAF deputies participated in the confidence session unorganized and divided. Deputy Theeb Abdallah voted for the government, while his colleague Ahmad Al Kassasbeh abstained. Deputy Abdallah Al Akaleh was absent.
Insiders believe the unprecedented rift inside the movement began when the IAF rejected Kabariti's offer to join his cabinet. Five IAF deputies, Theeb Abdallah, Ahmad Al Kassasbeh, Abdallah Al Akaleh, Bassam Al Omoush and Abdul Raheem Al Ukour, supported the offer. They were overwhelmed.
"I am still an independent. I strongly support the idea," said Theeb Abdallah. "I ran for elections with my own program which was based on satisfying the demands of my constituency." In his address, Abdallah called on the government to guarantee the release of all prisoners of conscience and to commute sentences against the Jordanian Afghans. He also echoed the demands of

Continued on page 2

Les femmes continuent de se battre

A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

Prince Hassan says Hamas has no presence in Jordan



AMMAN (Star)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has expressed his surprise at what PNA sources claimed of the existence of Hamas activists in Jordan. Responding to questions from a delegation of Canadian Jewish figures Wednesday, Prince Hassan said Jordan does not need to reiterate its firm denunciation of all forms of terrorism.
The Prince affirmed that Hamas has no presence or an office in the Kingdom and that the movement's military organization was discovered and its members brought to court in 1991. The Prince called on certain capitals to clarify their position from terrorism and that they should be asked to close the offices of Hamas and stop all support and funding to it.

He reiterated his support of an Egyptian proposal to hold an international conference to confront terrorism. The meeting, held at the Royal Court, was attended by the Canadian and Israeli ambassadors in Jordan.
On Tuesday and during a meeting with senior officers of the Armed Forces and several ministers, His Highness called on the security forces to be "vigilant and take precautionary measures." He added that the bombings "constitute a dangerous escalation of violence." "It is necessary for Jordan to follow up on the current events and help ensure that the Kingdom remains a model country for security and stability that should positively affect neighboring countries and prevent the developments from negatively affecting the Kingdom." ■

Government likely to seek IAF help to end the Hamas link

AMMAN (Star)—The wave of suicide bombings in Israel, which was carried by the militant wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), is putting pressure on Jordan to end all links with the move-

ment. Two leading Hamas figures, Ibrahim Ghosheh and Mohammed Nazzari, are Jordanian citizens representing the movement's interests in the Kingdom. In spite of official condemnation of these attacks, Jordan is expected to do more.

However some argue that Jordan was considered in the past an active place for the political activities of Hamas through its office in Amman. Late last year, the former Minister of Interior Mr. Salameh Hamad ordered the arrest of Hamas spokesmen in Amman Mr. Ghosheh, but this attempt failed as Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies protested. Sources told *The Star* that the former government extracted a promise from Abu Ghosheh and Nazzari to cease their political activities in Jordan.

The US administration requested all countries to close offices and interests of Hamas. This includes Jordan, where Hamas is believed to have a strong political base.
"Those persons who belong to Hamas in Jordan are Jordanian citizens, and they are subject to the Jordanian law. They are acting peacefully, and are not related to any terrorist attacks in Israel or the Palestinian area or anywhere else," Dr. Awad Khleifat, minister of interior told reporters after his return from a visit to the Gaza this week. "We can not deport Jordanian citizens as the Jordanian Constitution bans such measures," he emphasized.
PNA officials had criticized Jordan's role in allowing Hamas to function in Jordan. Mr. Arafat is reportedly dismayed at Jordan's past use of Hamas as an occasional pressure tool against the PLO.
Mr. Khleifat rejected accusations that Jordan hosts groups that have a hand in the latest bombings against Israel. He reaffirmed that Hamas has no office in Jordan, adding that "Jordan condemns all forms of terrorist acts."

Nevertheless, the government is likely to seek the cooperation of the IAF to deal with Hamas in Jordan. The source said this is essential if Jordan is to avoid further embarrassment. ■

Internal turmoil makes predicting Hamas' next move difficult

By Daniel Williams

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
MADRID—Hamas, the militant Islamic group that has claimed responsibility for the bloody wave of bombings in Israel during the last week, has evolved into a hydra-headed organization whose leaders are at odds about whether to continue terrorist attacks, Palestinian analysts said.
The internal turmoil makes predicting Hamas' next moves almost impossible, and complicates the efforts of Israeli and Palestinian authorities to thwart future attacks.
"It has become perplexing," said Ziad Abu Amr, a Palestinian expert on Islamic militants. "I believe at this moment that there are definitely splits between the leaders of Hamas' military wings, and between local leaders and leaders in exile. This makes finding a solution difficult. Central control has broken down."
Clearly, there is a split, leaving close-knit,

well-trained groups operating at the command of different leaders," said Daoud Kuttab, a prominent Palestinian journalist.

Containing Hamas is a joint, desperate preoccupation of the embattled government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Israel and of Yasser Arafat, who administers Palestinian territories on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
For the moment, Hamas is a thorn in the sides of both. But which Hamas, and where can it be found?
There are at least two Hamas military wings. The Izzidin Qassem Brigades and the Pupils of Ayash, a Palestinian source in Gaza said. The latter group is named for



Meet the new Ayash: Muhyiddin Al Sharif

Yehiya Ayash, a master bomb builder who was killed in January when a cellular telephone blew up in his face. The killing was attributed to Israel

West Bank and Gaza—or by yet another military group. Hamas leaders are reported to be based in Jordan and Syria, with the Syrian

branch funded by Iran. "The exiles have less a stake in what happens to Palestinians as a result of such blasts," said Abu Amr. "They are not affected by Israeli reprisals, or for that matter, crackdowns by Yasser Arafat."
Hamas or the Islamic Resistance Movement has undergone numerous mutations in its history. It began in the 1980s as a seemingly harmless Muslim group in Gaza, and was given a free hand to organize by the Israeli military officials who ruled Gaza at the time. The Israelis wanted to create a benign, religious-based alternative to Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.
Hamas' roots then were in the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic nationalist group that has followers in several Arab countries.
In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Hamas grew into a militant rival of the PLO. During the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule, which began in 1987, Hamas-affiliated mosques provided social services in difficult economic times while members plotted to seize and kill Israeli soldiers.
In 1989, its paraplegic leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was jailed for life by the Israelis for the killing of two kidnapped Israeli soldiers.
Hamas opposed peace moves by the PLO, labeling its members collaborators, and the Izzidin Qassem Brigades were created to carry out armed attacks on Israelis. Hamas recruited members of the brigades from groups of young Palestinians who grew disillusioned with the PLO. The number of Hamas militants is not known.
When peace between the Palestinians and

Continued on page 2

World
Report

JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Awni Abu Ghosh

Excerpts from Kabariti's statement after the vote of confidence

■ Together we can solve chronic problems, thwart the wishes of those who rejoice over the deterioration of the situation and those who advocate narrow-minded regionalism and are inclined to engage in all forms of corruption.

■ Under the ceiling of Parliament, there is much room for dialogue and for honourable work and honesty. A true Muslim is one who refrains from slandering other Muslims by speech or writing.

■ A program of government requires a true comprehension of the Constitution and the National Charter, and members of the ruling team include the state's institutions as well as its three branches of authority.

■ I have no problem concerning supporters or opponents, and there is no doubt that there will be differences in views about the most appropriate methods for serving the nation and the King.

■ I would like to reaffirm anew our determination to go ahead with the march of democracy and ensure public freedoms and respect the rights of all citizens.

■ My Government, which realizes the grave dangers emanating from certain practices that harm the sacred national unity, stresses here that it will work towards enhancing unity among its citizens of different factions and origins.

■ Our means to achieve our national goals and to achieve the aspired change require the involvement of all sectors in shouldering responsibility in the decision-making process.

■ We are determined to fight with all forms of administrative, financial, and moral corruption. We will come up with the proper mechanisms to fend off evil and punish the guilty.

■ No minister will be allowed to purchase or rent any government property nor will any minister serve as a member of the board of any company, or take part in any commercial businesses.

A new higher education philosophy is needed

■ Two draft laws on higher education and the universities were presented by the former government to the Parliamentary Education Committee. This was at a time when admission to state universities, unemployed graduates, and the labor needs were a crucial public concern.

We don't know what these draft laws stipulate regarding the state's policy towards higher and public education, but we do know that NGOs outlined their position on the close relationship between obtaining a higher education certificate and a future career.

In the absence of coordination between the decision makers in public and higher education, and labor market needs, a high percentage of graduates of higher education institutes join the growing army of the unemployed.

Acknowledging that the labor market is not the only decisive factor, higher education experts in the country have underlined the importance of planning in public education especially with regard to university abilities, students' wishes, and labor opportunities.

Since state universities are national institutions which are financed from people's pockets, the Parliamentary Education Committee held the view that their performance, finances and academic standards should be put under the supervision of a specialized responsible body, which would also be responsible for private universities. The Committee asked the Government to outline its higher and public educational policies and its view of the draft laws of the previous government on education. It would also be helpful if the deputies work on convening a nationwide conference on this crucial issue. In addition to education specialists, representatives of the private sector, the

labor market, private universities, teachers, student representatives, and non-governmental organizations should also take part. The outcome will certainly help to introduce needed reforms to alleviate the chronic problem of admission to universities and graduate unemployment.

Employment among the top notch!

■ Official figures show that the number of job applications received by the Civil Service Bureau up to the end of last year was 124,187. About 54,913 were males and 69,274 females. Only 5,291 applicants of both sexes were employed.

The Civil Service Bulletin said applications included 291 PhD holders, 20 of who later found employment; 1,305 had Master's Degree, 93 were later employed; 58,276 had BA degrees, 3,636 of whom were lucky to get work.

The bulletin added that 68,382 applications were held by diplomats, only 1,262 of whom got jobs. Application forms of secondary school leavers were 15,211, of which 165 received positive answers.

UNRWA moves to Amman and Gaza

■ UNRWA sources said the Agency's offices in Vienna will be moved to the region during June/July of this year. The Agency's division of health, relief, education, and engineering services will be positioned in Amman, whereas the office of the Commissioner-General, legal, financial, administrative, foreign relations, personnel affairs, and information offices will be located in Gaza. The transfer costs \$14 million. UNRWA reduced its health services to Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Its obligations in this regard do not exceed JD 150 per person. UNRWA now bears only 50% of the health bills in hospitals and/or health care centers, no matter how high the bill is. This excludes delivery and emergency cases. During

the last two months, UNRWA rejected 150 out of 300 applications of repayment for health services in southern Amman.

Women's education and the 21st century

■ Under the patronage of Minister of Education Dr Munther Al Masri, a seminar on the 'education of women and the 21st century' will be held at the RCC today, Thursday, 7 March. The seminar, which is organized within the program of the Human Forum for Women's Rights, will contribute to the analysis of the topics of the 4th World Congress of Women (Beijing 1995). Four working papers will be presented: Preparing Women for the 21st Century, by Dr Thougan Weidar; Education and Training for All, by Dr Mohammad Masad; Girls Drop out of Education, by Dr Khalid Al Nabiti; and An Analytical Study of the Fourth WCW Document's Chapter on Education by Husni Ayyesh.

Women in the lead

■ In cooperation with the German Friedrich Aibert Foundation, Noor Al Hussein Foundation will organize on Sunday (10 March) a training course for women leaders at the Philadelphia Hotel. Lectures will include Dr Zaki Ayoubi on the management of change in economic institutions; Senator Naela Al Rashdan on Jordanian women's experience in political life; Dr Hameed Haddad on women in Jordan's civil law; and Dr Tharayya Ebid (from ESCWA) on Arab women in international organizations.

An investigating commission

■ Much gossip has been going around about the unlawful appropriation of state lands by former officials or their relatives. Al Majid weekly said the Kabariti Government is about to set up a special com-

Al Aswaq fires 130 employees

■ The Arab Investment Corp. decided not to buy the Media Investment Co (MIC) which publishes Al Aswaq, because of its high number of employees. As a result, the latter laid off nearly 130 journalists, administrators, and technicians.

The high number of Al Aswaq staff was the outcome of the purchase of the then Sawi Al Shaab last year. However, the purchase contract obliges the MIC to maintain the workers of the sold newspaper, an issue that is well known by the new buyer. However, the MIC is

insisting on the workers' dismissal.

The affected workers took their case to Prime Minister Kabariti, and Speaker of the Lower House Sa'd Hayel Sour pointing out that the MIC had broken the contract. They explained that the dismissal was arbitrary and based on nepotism. A three-member workers committee was elected to follow up on the issue and to try to persuade the management to reverse its decision and abide by its moral obligations. Otherwise, the workers will be forced to take the company to court.



Jafar Rifaat/Dustour

New press law to be drafted

■ The Kabariti government will most likely present the Lower House with a draft press law for discussion and approval in two weeks time, said Al Hadath weekly.

If that is true, the new press law will replace the provisional press law which the parliamentary Legal Committee began discussing last week.

According to Al Hadath, the new draft defines a journalist as one "who takes journalism as a profession." The press in Jordan will incorporate all those Jordanians working in newspapers and news agencies. The training which is a provision for affiliation to the Jordan Press Association (JPA) will be dropped. The new draft will allow Jordanians working with the press abroad to be members of the JPA. This affiliation won't be obligatory, and allows non-JPA members to work in newspapers.

The new draft law abolishes the present quotas in the JPA council which provides seats for newspaper owners, private sector journalists, and those working for the Jordan News Agency Petra.

The draft also strikes out the 10-year rule as a condition for a journalist to become a chief

editor which was proposed by the JPA Council.

Earlier on, the parliamentary Legal Committee held a meeting with the newspapers chief editors, writers, and JPA council members, and listened to their opinion on the current provisional press law. The committee became aware of the large discrepancy between the JPA Council and the editors, especially with regard to JPA membership. The editors demanded a radical change in the current law.

Information Minister Dr Marwan Muasher was quoted earlier as saying that the Government wouldn't defend the provisional law of the JPA, and that it would work for the introduction of a new draft law.

However, the Legal Committee has nothing in mind of which it is working. The question is whether the new draft law will be ready before the next JPA elections, scheduled for July, since the current Parliamentary session has only one month to go. A hard battle awaits the conservative journalists in the JPA. This time, they won't find the Government on their side.



Muasher

The ever popular Quiz Night turns four

A SPECIAL Quiz Night was held at Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan to mark 4th anniversary of this popular activity. Every Wednesday night, enthusiastic competitors flock to the El Pasha Nightclub to take part in the ever popular Quiz Night.

The first Quiz Night was first hosted by Mr. Riad Khoury, back in February 1992, with only three competing teams at the Al Hanah Pub, and won by the CNN team. "It's an evening of fun which also taxes your intellect and memory," says Mr. Khoury. He adds "It was great hosting the first Quiz and I am equally happy to be a participant on this fourth anniversary."

Since then, the participants grew in number and knowledge. With renovation of the pub and the opening of the Mexican Restaurant Mama Juanita the Quiz changes to a more spacious venue, El Pasha Nightclub. Teams compete for the first prize voucher of JD 25 of food and drinks at the hotel. The second prize is a smaller voucher of JD 15.

Mr. Metri Tawal started hosting the Quiz two years ago. He added more fun and trivia to the occasion. It is more than Quiz... It's entertainment, it's comradery, it's loads of fun. I am very honoured to be the host."

Mr. Reesom, a Quiz Night enthusiast, "I come to meet friends. I would recommend it as a good therapy for stress."

mittee to investigate this dangerous problem, particularly as its (Government) is bound to combat all forms of corruption.

Al Qadi passes away

■ Soon after presenting his speech on the Government Statement, Deputy Nawaf Al Qadi passed away. Al Qadi, one of



Al Qadi

members for the North Beduin Constituency suffered a minor heartache. He was 73 and represented his district well. Soon before his death he gave the confidence a "yes" vote.

Ministers Shneikat and Naser expelled

■ Owing to their participation in Mr Kabariti's Cabinet, Dr Mustafa Shneikat, the minister of agriculture, and Dr Kamal Naser, minister of administrative development were expelled from the Executive Committee of the Popular Conference for the Protection of the Homeland and Resistance to Normalization.

According to Shihan weekly, the committee which was set up in 1994 to fight normalization is slowly disintegrating. It added that despite its nine-party opposition membership there is a dualism in the committee regarding the issue of normalization with Israel. While the Islamic Action Front and the other seven parties are still strongly anti-normalization, others like the Democratic Unity Party appear to have shied away.



Shneikat



Naser

Internal turmoil makes predicting Hamas' next move difficult

Continued from page 1

Israel began to take hold. Hamas tried to sabotage negotiations by using Qassem Brigades suicide bombers to kill Israeli civilians. Bombers killed about 100 Israelis between April 1994 and last August. Some of the attacks were carried out by Islamic Jihad, another militant Muslim group.

Hamas' overall popularity among Palestinians dropped noticeably last year during the period of Israeli pullouts from Arab population centers in the West Bank. Some militants suggested the group should turn to politics.

In August 1995, Hamas agreed to suspend hostilities by

the Qassem Brigades at the behest of Arafat. Further talks between the PLO and Hamas were held in Gaza, Cairo and Khartoum.

But Arafat was unable to persuade Hamas to endorse his peace efforts. Its founding covenant states that all of historic Palestine is sacred Muslim land and none can be ceded to Israeli control.

Hamas resumed bombings this year after the death of Ayash, an event that apparently enraged hard-liners who opposed the suspension of attacks.

Now, some Palestinians fear that a slowdown in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will only strengthen violent militants in Hamas. They say expe-

rience has shown that Hamas has lost ground when the peace plan has progressed.

"The experience has shown that advances in peace isolate the violent factions," Abu Amr said.

Many Palestinians also worry that reliance on a crackdown by Arafat will simply incite violence that will, in turn, spill over into Israel.

Last Tuesday, at a news conference in Washington, however, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said Arafat must silence the preachers who are "brainwashing" militants, uncover arms caches and "root out the infrastructure" of Hamas.

A week of defections in the Lower House

Continued from page 1

his own east Amman constituency. "Before the vote, the government guaranteed many of my demands. So I gave the government my vote of confidence as I felt a sense of cooperation from its side," he said.

"We will not allow anyone to shatter the IAF," deputy Mansour responded. "Those who violate our stand will be asked to explain their position."

The only woman deputy in the Lower House, Mrs Toujan Faisal, did not break with tradition by voting against the government. But her statement was less fiery.

"The people have long waited for this dear new born [the new government] after

long political infertility and a repeat of lies by the previous government," Faisal said in her statement.

Deputy Khalil Haddadin, of the pro-Iraq Jordanian Arab Ba'th Party also voted against. He strongly criticized the government's stand on Iraq. On the same basis, deputy Talal Obaidat voted against.

Leftist deputy Bassam Haddadin voted in favor of the government, for the first time since he entered the Lower House, as did his party member, Mustafa Shneikat, who had joined the Kabariti cabinet as Minister of Agriculture.

Surprisingly, former deputy prime minister Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh did not address the Lower House and sources said he was not satisfied with the

new government and openly talked about his opposition to its structure. But he voted for nonetheless. Asked to comment about his stand on the government he told The Star "Ask me after 100 days," which is the period given to the government by His Majesty the King to handle change in the country.

JORDANIAN PAPERS

By Awni Abu Ghosh

Up to date devices

ZEALOUS MEMBERS of Mr Kabariti's cabinet are not wasting any time as far as deeper reforms, changes, and better services are concerned.

In line with the directives of King Hussein's letter of Designation, and translating the Government's statement into action, several ministers have already set the wheels of their ministries in motion. The Interior Ministry has created a 'control bureau' to monitor violations of basic human rights. A judge has been recently appointed to preside over this device. On the recommendation of the Investment Promotion Corporation, the Prime Ministry has established a special office

at its headquarters to look into investors' complaints. The Ministry of Social Development now has a special desk to insure the smooth running of citizens' interactions. And the newly appointed Director of Public Security Department is initiating an 'open door' policy of relations with the public.

Certainly, diligence is an essential right of every official in carrying out his duties and responsibilities. However, the primary question that arises concerning these measures is whether the ministries and departments are adding to the state of bureaucracy. Indeed, the investors' complaints which are expected to be addressed to the newly designated office are already lodged in the government-related departments; the respectful judge who chairs the 'control bureau' at the Interior Ministry has knowledge of the numerous violations of basic human rights; the Public Security department is more than anybody else aware of how many citizens are illegally detained; and the ministries of Social and Administrative Development are fully aware of the financial, moral, and other forms of corruption and abuse in the state.

Though the efficiency, and sincerity of the designated officials in carrying out their tasks is not under discussion at this point, it is more important to directly deal with the public on all of these issues. Since many of the complaints, violations, abuses and anti-constitutional performances are actually made by the public, the relevant ministries will do better if they call for public meetings and special interest groups on the municipal, district, governorate, and even national levels. Besides the creation of a more effective relationship and confidence between the officials and the public, such endeavors would lay down a strong basis for exercising democracy as a way of life on the one hand, and for educating the people of the collective responsibility towards their own interests and their homeland on the other.

Needless to say that these up to date official devices of control seem to fulfill an urgent need in the eyes of their advocates. However, the grass roots involvement in uprooting social, administrative, financial, and moral corruption will accelerate the pace of achieving such a task.

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A week of defections in the Lower House

Continued from page 1

long political infertility and a repeat of lies by the previous government," Faisal said in her statement.

Deputy Khalil Haddadin, of the pro-Iraq Jordanian Arab Ba'th Party also voted against. He strongly criticized the government's stand on Iraq. On the same basis, deputy Talal Obaidat voted against.

Leftist deputy Bassam Haddadin voted in favor of the government, for the first time since he entered the Lower House, as did his party member, Mustafa Shneikat, who had joined the Kabariti cabinet as Minister of Agriculture.

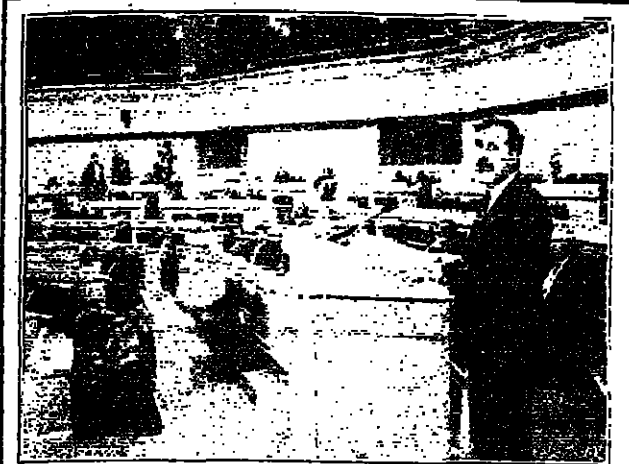
Surprisingly, former deputy prime minister Abdel Raouf Al Rawabdeh did not address the Lower House and sources said he was not satisfied with the

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People & Politics



Let the Kabariti era begin!

THE STRONG vote of confidence that the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti has received this week gives the premier the go-ahead to launch his white revolution while counting on the support of the deputies. That's good news for Mr. Kabariti and his team. The Prime Minister has already scored well with members of the Lower House, 21 of whom are members of his cabinet.

He has also managed to break into Muslim Brotherhood ranks by snatching one of their important votes—one other IAP deputy abstained and one was absent. His eloquence and vitality are a welcome change in the legislature from the drab and predictable oratory exercises of previous premiers.

What Mr. Kabariti needs now are some popular accomplishments at the economic level. This is where the real challenge lies. The true test of Mr. Kabariti will be in the coming few weeks and months. We will see if his "magic team" is real or whether his government will run out of steam as it tackles the ever complicated issues of unemployment, farmers' debts, poverty, sluggish economic performance and others.

It will be interesting to see how Mr. Kabariti will deal with the Iraqi issue. Exporters fear his staunch anti-Saddam stand will close Iraqi markets and deprive Jordan of cheap oil supplies. Others are concerned that Jordan's Iraqi position could invite trouble in the form of terrorist activities. The same could be said about our deteriorating relations with Iran and Syria. It will be crucial to see if Mr. Kabariti's reconciliation efforts with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf countries will translate into genuine gains for the Jordanian people.

Jordanians will continue to eye with anxiety developments in the Palestinian areas and relations between Jordan and the PNA. Mr. Kabariti is still to chart a workable policy of cooperation with the PNA aimed at creating gains and opportunities for the Jordanian side. One of the important issues is our relationship with our peace partner, Israel. Putting to work the 14 plus agreements and protocols that the two sides concluded will prove if the Jordanian-Israeli peace is as warm and beneficial as everybody wants.

Meanwhile it is heartwarming to see Mr. Kabariti reiterating his commitment to democracy, human rights and the independence of the judiciary. Again the coming weeks should reflect the sincerity of such commitments.

The Kabariti era, as it was dubbed, promises positive change for Jordan. The Prime Minister's policy statement contained ambitious objectives and many, many promises. Mr. Kabariti does not have much time to deliver on his promises. In the middle of next year Jordanian voters will have a say on each of these issues when they head to the polls to elect a new Lower House of Parliament. The result of that vote will be a true measure of people's confidence in Mr. Kabariti's government and cabinet members.

Vice President of the PNC 'No peace with occupation, and no security or stability with the denial of Palestinian rights.'

It should not be the Palestinians who are asked to amend their Charter but rather Israel which should be obliged to abolish its restrictive laws and to abide by internationally legitimate requests for a comprehensive, durable and just peace.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The recent developments in the PNA areas where highly turbulent and covered the pages of the press. To shed light on these serious issues, *The Star's* Raed Al Abed spoke to Mr. Tayseer Quba'a, vice president of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), and member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Excerpts follow:

Any new developments with regard to your return to Palestine?

I earnestly expressed the wish to return to my homeland since the first opportunity for such a sacred right was opened up. My name was on the list of presidency of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) and the Central Council of the PLO. Unfortunately I was rejected. However, we in the PFLP did not give up our right to return to the West Bank and Gaza.

The convening of the next PNC will be another occasion for us to apply again for a permanent stay in our homeland. The Israelis accepted the return of only some PNC members, and are investigating the cases of others, including myself.

For me the problem does not only proceed from being a deportee, but also, because of my position about the Oslo accords.

However, we in the PNC presidency and in the PFLP underline the right of all PNC members to return home and stay there as citizens, not as visitors, the same applies to all those who fought in the ranks of the Palestinian revolution, and for all refugees and deportees.

This clearly shows the strict Israeli control of the bridges and crossing points, which contradicts their claim of being keen on peace. Though this question is closely linked with issues of sovereignty, we believe that no peace can be achieved without a people's

sovereignty over its land and borders.

How do you view the relationship between the PNC and the elected Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)?

The PFLP regards the elections in the West Bank and Gaza as a mechanism for the implementation of the Oslo accords. That is why we did not participate in the elections. Our alternative proposal was the organization of a free and fair election in PNC members from the West Bank and Gaza within an overall process inside and outside Palestine, this was not done. The elected PLC members are considered members of the PNC. I support this line, on the condition that the ratio of PNC members from the West Bank and Gaza be completed (180 members).

However, this does not seem to be the case. There is a tendency to complete this figure through appointment, not election.

The PLC is a PNA body. The PLC is not a legislative body in the full sense of the word as legislation itself is based on the PNC's consent.

The PLC constitutes only part of the PNC and cannot be an alternative to the whole as far as the Palestinians' right to self-determination is concerned. It is true that the PLC will diminish the role of the PNC. But the close connection between the two councils will definitely limit that, and will prevent the transformation of the PLC into a PNC alternative. The PNC is the only par-

Quba'a

liamentary body that represents Palestinians in all Arab, regional and international bodies. The PNC should continue to serve its present function until the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established.

What about the next PNC session and its agenda?

We believe that the convening of an ordinary session of the PNC is needed irrespective of Israeli conditions. It is the PNC's task to review the recent developments of the Palestinian national movement, these emphasize more than ever the unity of the Palestinian people, their national rights and international legitimacy as well as the Palestinian national program of return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

We in the PFLP view this forthcoming session as an ordinary one with a broad agenda including a review of the ongoing settlement process and for introducing a national program that underlines our people's national rights, tasks and aims in the coming period which will witness negotiations in the final stages. In this particular session we will be able to overcome our political differences for the national cause. In the past we ran PNC sessions within sharp political division but managed to unite on the national platform.

How do you then see Israel's demand to change the national charter in this session?

The changing or adjustment of the Palestinian National Charter needs a special PNC session which we definitively reject. We do not proceed from wanting to stick to a certain text, but proceed from our people's highest national interest. As yet, our people have not gained independence, neither have our internationally recognized rights been restored. Israel continues to reject our people's right to self-determination, and our rights in Jerusalem. Israel has not yet defined its borders, the Knesset decided to annex east Jerusalem, and Israel has not withdrawn its forces from all the territories it occupied in 1967.

For all these reasons, we refuse to amend the Charter. In regard to the claim that this

Charter stipulates the destruction of Israel. This is hypocrisy. It is Israel which has destroyed our people and refused to abide by the resolutions of the international community, though it itself was established on the basis of UN Security Council resolution Number 181. Israel continues to reject the building of a Palestinian state next to its own. And finally Israel does not recognize Security Council resolution 194 concerning the return of the Palestinian refugees the implementation of return of the displaced in accordance with Security Council resolution 242.

Because of this, it should not be the Palestinians who are asked to amend their Charter but rather Israel which should be obliged to abolish its restrictive laws and to abide by internationally legitimate requests for a comprehensive, durable and just peace.

Many critical remarks and contestations were addressed to the PLC elections. What do you think about that?

Since these elections were carried out under the provisions of Oslo II, we said it would never be fair or democratic. Therefore we were not surprised by the results. That is the domination of the ruling party (Fatah) over the seats of the elected council. No one denies the size of Fatah, its influence and possibilities, but it was the PNA that rejected a proportional system and refused to reduce the number of constituencies. This consolidated the ruling party's hegemony.

At the same time the election campaign instigated tribalism, nepotism and narrow interests at the expense of political parties, national coalitions and the general national interest.

We express reluctance over the role Arab and International observers who tried to describe those elections as fair and democratic and to propagate the process in the media on that basis without scrutinizing the realities and facts. Therefore we believe there is much to learn from this unique experience. This should open our eyes to the danger of shifting the PLO's experience abroad to Palestine, and its repercussion on the political system that is to be set up there. The one party rule in Palestine will be conducive to a totalitarian regime and probably recalls the former and failed experiments of certain democracies and socialist governments.

Instead, it should be emphasized that the Palestinian people has a wide range of ideological, political and party convictions that are dispersed in many locations. But the PLO has symbolized its unity on generally accepted programs and aims. It is all the more true today that political pluralism should be the basis of building a new democratic Palestinian state.

How do you see the recent Hamas bombings in Israel?

It should be stressed first that the Palestinian people are not war mongers, they are advocates of peace, security, and stability. However, war has been imposed upon us in the form of continued occupation, land

Human rights activists demand serious action from the Government

AMMAN (Star)—The annual Report on Human Rights Conditions in Jordan during 1995 deserves to be a guide to the new Government which has promised to deepen the course of democracy and preserve human rights.

The report stated that during 1995, the Arab Organization for Human Rights in Jordan (AOHR) observed a sharp increase in type and frequency of official and semi-official violations of human rights in Jordan. "This decline was not limited to practices, but was also manifested in some legislations and decisions that infringed, partially or wholly, on the basic and democratic rights of Jordanian people," said Dr. Labib Kamhawi, vice president of the AOHR, during a press conference on Saturday, while delivering the annual report of the AOHR. The year 1995 witnessed a very serious and dangerous development, namely, the use by the Jordanian authorities of fire-arms in dealing with civilians, which led to two cases of death at the hands of policemen, the report claims. Moreover, there was an increase in the use, by authorities, of sheer force and physical violence and torture. This resulted in grave bodily harm, and injuries which required hospitalization in some cases.

Activists of AOHR claim that the peace treaty with Israel, in addition to the grave economic situation, soaring prices, and the increase in unemployment, have all contributed, in one way or the other, to an increase in the volume and type of political opposition to the government. This was accompanied by an erosion in government willingness to tolerate the other point-of-view. Moreover, the Jordanian government exhibited, in 1995, lack of willingness to have any substantive dialogue with the opposition, which resulted in the interrogation, and, or, arrest of some leaders of the political opposition under various charges, like *Ihlat Al Lisan* (these-majesty) and resisting normalcy with Israel.

The year 1995 witnessed an increase in the number and types of complaints received by the AOHR, not to mention the violations which the AOHR monitored on its own," Kamhawi said. "This promoted the release of an urgent report, in addition to the regular one, warning against the increase in violations of human rights in Jordan. During the same period, a number of urgent appeals were issued on behalf of Jordanians and people inside Jordan."

The report says that the year 1995 witnessed the development of two methods to facilitate violation of human rights by Jordanian authorities. The first method was arbitrary use of executive power or excessive misuse of power.

The second method was resorting to legislation to give the government legal means by which to violate the rights basic freedoms of the people in the name of the law. "This makes it the duty and responsibility of our organization to work, democratically, towards the amendment, or, cancellation of such legislation," said Kamhawi.

Human rights activists claim that they tried to keep all channels of communication with the Jordanian government open in order to facilitate the solution of complaints received from citizens, and coordinating in the hope of preventing any violations. The response of the Jordanian government was, however, the weakest since the AOHR was established. The AOHR received answers to only 12% of letters and complaints sent to the Prime Minister and other officials. This attitude gives a clear indication that the intent of the previous Government not to handle and, or, stop violations of human rights by its officials, the report claims.

The AOHR received many complaints about violations of very basic rights of Jordanians, like the unlawful cancellation of nationality, and confiscation of passports. Also forbidding Jordanian mothers from admitting their non-Jordanian children into Jordan, and the refusal by the General Intelligence Department (GID) to approve the appointment of Jordanians from the public sector to occupy positions in the civil service although which is a violation of the law by the GID.

There were also cases of the GID and the Public Security Department threatening people or intimidating them because they lodged complaints with the AOHR.

This report addresses violations related to the following rights: Basic rights (constitutional and legal), the right to life, the right to justice, rule of law and personal safety, the right to have proper treatment in jail and detention centres, the right to form association, the right to have freedom of opinion and expression, the right to hold peaceful meetings and seminars, the right to freedom of movement and residence, the right to vote and be elected, and the right to work.

usurpation, and desperation. And since our people have not regained their national rights, their struggle will continue. Hence, the elimination of violence should be sought in the removal of its causes. Violence is there because of Israeli occupation.

Israeli endeavors do not comply with our requests for peace, therefore, Israel bears full responsibility for these operations carried out by Hamas, especially as it is still fresh in the minds of the people. Israel's brutal massacres in the Holy Mosques in Jerusalem and Hebron, as well as its assassination of many Palestinian leaders, the latest of whom were Al Shiqaqi and Ayash, its intransigence, election calculations and alleged security

operations stand behind the vicious circle of terror, violence and extremism. On the other hand these Israeli policies constitute an attempt to instigate the PNA against the opposition forces, while at the same time making the PNA an oppressive tool and a security valve for Israel. The Palestinian people should be vigilant towards these Israeli intrigues which may lead to a civil strife. There is no peace with occupation, neither is there security and stability with the denial of the Palestinian people's rights. Israeli leaders have to draw lessons from on going developments.

Amman businessmen find US interest in Jordanian product

By George S. Hishmeh
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Fawaz Shaalan, head of a Jordanian business delegation which spent a week in the United States, said March 5 that his Jordan Trade Association group was "highly encouraged" by the results of its just-concluded visit to Washington and Chicago.

Shaalan, who was speaking by telephone in New York hours before his return home, said every member of his 10-person group made "good business" during the trip, which began in Washington on 26 February.

"Some signed full-fledged joint ventures or licensing agreements," he reported, while others negotiated deals on "mutual distribution of complementary goods." He gave as examples Jordanian cosmetics and US toiletries and skin-care products.

He added, "We found lots of interest in unique Jordanian products like Dead Sea bath salts and the bedouin-woven products."

The delegation included two women from the Bani Hamida women's weav-

ing project, a self-sustaining program for rural Jordanian women established in 1985 by Save the Children. The project, which seeks to promote and revive handicrafts in Jordan, has about 1300 bedouin women involved. In Washington, Shaalan said his group had several meetings with US officials at the State and Commerce Departments as well as the Small Business Administration and the Export-Import Bank.

All told, he said, "we had about 100 meetings here and in Chicago. Our time was well utilized."

He praised the assistance of the National US-Arab Chambers of Commerce which facilitated their visit to the United States as well as the Jordanian embassy staff. "We agreed with the Chamber to increase our level of cooperation and we all joined their organization and shall represent them in Jordan."

The Arab-American Businessmen and Professional Association and the International Trade Association, which, he said, has several thousand members, has helped arrange the primarily one-on-one meetings with American businessmen in Chicago.

Shaalan, who is the vice chairman of the

Jordan Trade Association, said that he is planning to lead another delegation in the summer because "we were highly encouraged" by the results so far.

Asked how he would do things different the second time around, Shaalan said he found a need here "to digitalize our information and to utilize the internet more." He also thought that it may be necessary for the next Jordanian delegation to be organized on a sectoral basis like foods or textiles. "We then could be more effective," he understood from his American counterparts.

Here, he pointed out that the Department of Commerce will be placing Jordanian businessmen on the Internet as part of the Middle East/North Africa economic summit, which is now scheduled to take place in Cairo in the first half of November. Shaalan said that since this was the first private sector delegation from Jordan in the wake of the Amman economic summit conference, they were able to impress on their American partners that Jordn could very well serve as "a platform for 120 million" persons who constitute the Middle East market.

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Business scene

■ The US has granted \$1.5 million to the Loan Guarantee Corp., for a new pre-export credit guarantee facility. An additional million will also be made available once the facility becomes operational.

■ About 75 percent of Jordanian exporters are small businesses which have difficulty in obtaining financing from banks. The facility will assist these exporters by issuing loan guarantees to banks which will encourage them to extend credit to Jordanian exporters.

■ About JD 96,250 million of investments went into building 29 hotels in 1995.

Thirteen hotels are still under construction. These alone cost JD 57.5 million. In Ajlun, three new hotels are being built at a cost of JD 3 million. In Wadi Musa, five hotels exist at JD 26 million while in Balqa, two new hotels cost JD 6 million. In Tafelch, a hotel is also under construction at a cost of JD 1.5 million. In Karak, three new hotels cost JD 1.5 million. In Ajlun, a hotel is to be constructed at a JD 1.5 million.

■ Jordanian exports to Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman in the first seven months of 1995 reached JD 23 million. Whereas Jordan imported JD 10 million during the same period. In 1994 Jordan exported to these countries commodities to the value of JD 28 million. It imported only JD 8 million during the same period.

■ Sales by AJ Ghanem Optics Group for 1995 reached JD 1 million (this is out of the JD 10 million). The group investment is JD 3 million. The Sabab-based optics factory plans to increase production this year to 200,000 frames at a cost of JD 2 million, 10 percent of which for public consumption and 90 percent for export.

■ The Arab Real Estate Bank agreed to grant half a million dinars to the Public Transport Corp. The loan will go to refurbish 50 buses at JD 10,000 for each.

■ Trading at the Amman Financial Market during the last two months amounted to JD 32,896,679, compared to JD 43,150, 862 for the same period last year. This is a 27.14 percent decrease. Stock circulation for last February and January was 15,676, 742 compared to 20,866,785.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 6 March	
Buy JD	Sell JD
0.7080	0.7100
1.0794	1.0848
0.4781	0.4805
0.5879	0.5908
0.1396	0.1403
0.6712	0.6746
0.4271	0.4292
0.0457	0.0459

Intellectual property rights seen as preserving local culture

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

PARTICIPANTS AT the 14th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Arab Academy of Music on Monday, highlighted the need to develop, implement and enforce intellectual property rights and stressed its importance for the survival of the local culture.

"In 25 words or less, intellectual property rights is a big deal," moderator of the second of a three-day conference entitled Copyrights of Intellectual and Literary Ownership in Arab Music, Mr Riad Al Khouri said. "By not enforcing property rights," he continued, "you are not promoting Jordanian creativity."

The all-day event, presented by The National Music Conservatory and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, brought together experts in the field of music and artistic ownership from around the world. While the participants were optimistic about the ultimate objective of introducing intellectual property rights to the region, many agreed that it would be a long process. "There's a lot of ignorance about copyright laws," admitted Ms Sana Fakhour, regional manager at Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP), who in addition to co-sponsoring the event, acts as an advisor to the government on the issue of property rights. "We hope to use the discussions today to make recommendations to the government."

Ms Fakhour optimistically added, She explained that a law on patents, trademarks and design was recently drafted in parliament.

The concept of intellectual property rights has its roots in 18th century France. Writers of successful theater works re-

alized that they neither had any control over their plays nor shared in their success. This continues to be the main driving force for the advocacy of property rights today. "It is important because it preserves the right of the thinker," Mr Kifah Fakhouri, Director of the National Music Conservatory says about intellectual property rights. Dr. Habib Touma from the International Institute for Traditional Music echoed this sentiment. "It is the right of every composer and every writer to have his productions protected and not pirated," the visiting speaker from Berlin Germany noted.

For some, however, the issue of intellectual property rights is an economic concern. "It has a very important economic impact," states Mr. Olivier Le Covec, Head of the General Documentation Department for the Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers (SACEM) based in Paris, France. Societies such

as SACEM in France, or its counterparts in America and Europe, are concerned with the economic applications of protecting an artist's work. In addition to defending the rights and works of the artist, perhaps more importantly, they are given the notable task of tracking and collecting royalties.

Whether an economic issue or one of legal rights, the panelists agree that the topic of property rights is concerned with preserving an art form. "We have to collect the royalties," Mr Covec notes, "if we want to earn money and continue to [do] other things." Mr Fakhouri agrees that the issue isn't simply an economic one, but rather the perpetuation of the art. The also acting Vice President of the Arab Academy of Music, explains that for the artist, intellectual property should act as an annuity whereby a creative work should continue to earn money for the artist for as long as it is utilized. Through piracy,

however, Fakhouri says their future income and, consequently, future works are threatened. "They make their living through writing and composing," Fakhouri explains. "How do we keep them in the business," he rhetorically asks, "if no one honors property rights?"

While intellectual property rights is meant to cover all artists in all fields, and from all over the world, the panelists stressed the importance of property rights for the local artist. While many think of American and European singers and composers when discussing copyrights, the speakers mainly focused on the regional side of property rights. "The importance is not the protection of the Beatles," according to Mr Covec, "but [rather] what is important is the works of the [local artist] and how can they continue to earn money to continue." For this reason, the panelists believe that the issue of property rights is ultimately one of preserving one's own culture.

When asked about the time frame involved in transforming a society to respect the intellectual property of others, Mr Covec noted that this will occur. "The day when Jordanian composers and all people can understand the importance of the copyright for the savior of their own culture."

Admittedly, the introduction and effective enforcement of intellectual property rights is a long process. While some forecast a relatively optimistic timetable of two years, others are more inclined to view it more as a five year process. Others, still, place less significance on the time involved as much as they stress the importance of the end result. As Mr Fakhouri commented, "Personally I don't care, let it take 30 years, let it take 50 years, the important thing is it should be on the right track one day."

US development assistance to Mideast examined

By George S. Hishmeh
USIA Staff Writer

Washington—Brian Atwood, administrator of the US Agency for International Development, acknowledged that in the event of a comprehensive Middle East peace, there can be a more broad-based distribution of current aid levels established after the Camp David peace accord.

Egypt and Israel collect annually about five billion dollars in US economic and military assistance since they reached their historic peace agreements at OS peering nearly 20 years ago.

"I can see that possibility," Atwood told a questioner at a panel discussion

on US development assistance to the Middle East. "I do think that when the time comes—if we have comprehensive peace—that everyone is going to be prepared to sit down and discuss these kinds of issues" of a broader distribution of American development assistance in the Middle East and elsewhere.

He added that, in fact, discussions are underway—"healthy discussions"—within Congress, the Israel government, and the Egyptian government, and there is a realization that "the Camp David investments at the level that they are now are not going to continue beyond the comprehensive agreement."

But, he maintained, "there will be

new resources needed for the Middle East as well."

Sharing the symposium on February 27 with Atwood were Representative Lee Hamilton, the ranking Democratic member of the House International Relations Committee; Dr. Peter Gubser, president of the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), and Dr. Sara Roy of Harvard University Middle East Center and author of *The Gaza Strip: The Political Economy of De-development*.

The occasion was the 10th in the Capitol Hill conference series on US Middle East policy sponsored by the Middle East Policy Council, headed by former Senator George McGovern.

Palestine Securities Exchange

A better vehicle for investment

THE CREATION of a Palestinian capital market, with a securities exchange as its center of activities, constitutes a necessary condition for the repatriation of long-term investment capital to the West Bank and Gaza.

Given the dispersal of the Palestinians and the concentration of personal wealth abroad, mobilizing and channeling savings to finance a productive economy is vital.

The inability of Palestinian expatriates to direct their investments in Palestine requires a vehicle to facilitate this. Traditionally, the one venue available for such investments was in real estate.

Approximately 85 percent of gross fixed capital formation in the West Bank and Gaza went into construction. In the aftermath of the peace process, heavy real estate investment caused land prices to spiral while equity investments remained below achievable levels.

An efficient, modern and well-regulated capital market offers expatriates a better investment vehicle: the tradable security.

Such a market can provide absentee investors a means to evaluate long-term investment from a distance, to select an appropriate security or financial instrument, to undertake the acceptable level of risk, to diversify investment holdings, and to actively monitor them as well. Such capabilities should allow individual investors to put to risk more of their savings in Palestine, thereby increasing aggregate long-term capital available for rebuilding

the country.

The argument highlights the need to establish the securities exchange in Palestine, as a born out of a special feature of the Palestinian economy.

One may ask why not simply list Palestinian companies on a neighboring exchange—at least as an interim solution?

The answer is that such an option is not available in Palestine. For instance, last year it was decided not to allow foreign companies, including Palestinian ones, to raise capital in the local market. Even if Palestinian companies were invited to list on a nearby Arab exchange, it must be remembered that an efficient and poorly regulated capital market is not much better than no market at all, as the experience of Palestinian expatriates with Arab financial exchanges attest.

Other benefits of a capital market apply to all economies. They include the allocation of resources in a manner that maximizes overall economic utility. This is achieved through two-related prerequisites. The first is to make capital more mobile through the securitization and trading of financial liabilities.

And the second is the discovery of a security's true economic value, or the price that reflects all available information required to judge such a value. Confidence in the price discovery mechanism, which requires fair and open trading conditions and market transparency, will enable investors to accurately evaluate targeted projects and allow these projects to raise capital at the

acceptable risk adjusted prices.

The capital market affords alternative sources of investment and funding, thereby increasing the return available to savers and investors and, more importantly, lowering the cost of raising capital due to increased competition between financial intermediaries. Finally, the capital market will allow the government, municipalities and public utilities to raise the required financing for public services and infrastructure projects in sufficient volume and at a lower cost.

A Capital Market Law is to be promulgated in Palestine. The law, its by-laws and regulations should cover all activities related to the capital market and all persons, corporations, organizations, and professions involved in the securities or securities-related businesses. The regulations must also encompass all types of publicly held and traded securities and derivative instruments. Normally, supervision of the securities markets is entrusted to an independent agency or to the ministry of finance. This proposal assumes initially that a single ministry of the PNA shall be responsible for overall regulatory functions. These will include: Supervision of the exchange; regulation of the primary market; regulation of securities firms; regulation of accountancy and auditing; and protection of investors.

Exchange responsibilities will include: Listing of securities; organizing and monitoring secondary market trading; supervision of member firms; and setting margin requirements. The Palestine Securities Exchange is to be established under the law as the sole securities market in Palestine.

As a self-regulating organization (SRO), the Exchange will be responsible for formulating and enforcing its own rules and regulations, which will cover such matters as listing requirements, secondary trading, settlement and clearing, as well as the conduct and operations of member firms (i.e. securities firms).

The Palestine Securities Exchange Co. (PSEC), which is a private shareholding company incorporated on 27 March 1995, shall enter into an agreement with the PNA to establish, own and operate the Exchange.

The Exchange is to be governed by a board of eight directors, including a public director representing investors and business interests, who shall be appointed by the Ministry for a two-year term. Another director representing member firms shall be elected by member firms for a one-year non-renewable term on a rotational basis. The board of directors shall formulate major policies regarding the operations and administration of the Exchange, establish manage-

ment objectives, and promulgate and amend the Exchange's rules and regulations. Other responsibilities include the review and approval of the budget, major capital expenditures, setting commissions and fees, and the introduction of new instruments, products and services.

A special permanent committee of the board, called the Overseers Committee, will be formed to act on matters relating to the activities and conduct of member firms, including the imposition of additional duties and requirements, and/or disciplinary actions as empowered under the rules and regulations of the Exchange. This committee will review and approve the decisions and recommendations of the general manager of the Exchange that are relevant to its scope of responsibilities.

All the necessary arrangements will be made for government regulators to effectively monitor the operations of the Exchange. A representative of the regulatory authority shall attend the meetings of the board of directors as an observer and participate in the deliberations of the overseers committee as a non-voting outside member.

Growth for ABC, continues for third year running

ABC INVESTMENT & Services Co. (E.C.), the wholly owned investment subsidiary of the Arab Banking Corporation, generated record profits for the third successive year, of \$9.5 million (1994 \$ 9.3 million). This represented a return on average shareholders' fund of 13.5% (1994 15.2%). In 1995, assets of ABC E.C. had grown by 129.5 to \$652.7.

A number of factors contributed to the company's profit performance. ABC E.C. was able to take advantage of opportunities to achieve attractive yields on investment grade securities through using interest rate, currency swaps and options. Strong results were also recorded in proprietary trading activities due to last year's robust worldwide equity and floating rate note markets.

ABC Securities, ABC E.C. is brokerage subsidiary with a seat on the Bahrain Stock Exchange. It increased its market share to about 30% of the turnover on the Exchange, although overall trading volumes declined for the second year running.

The year also saw activity increasing in the regional new issue market. ABC E.C. acted

as Lead Manager and Agent on a \$ 40 million Floating Rate Certificate of Deposit issue arranged on behalf of the International Bank of Asia Limited. The issue was successfully placed with both international and Gulf investors. In the second half of the year, ABC E.C. acted as Lead Manager, Agent and Overall Coordinator on a \$ 60 million Global Floating Rate Note issue for Bahrain International Bank E.C. the offering being oversubscribed and increased form \$ 50 million.

Business Chronicle

The new-old economic policy

Nine major areas of economic policy were stressed by Prime Minister Aed Al Karim Al Kabarti's statement before the joint session of the two houses of Parliament last week. They are: monetary stability, legislative reform, privatization, banking and stock exchange, integration in world economy, poverty, unemployment, foreign debt, Government performance, and production-supportive services.

Though the statements of previous governments were largely no different in underlining the same economic issues, Kabarti's transparent and succinct articulations reflect not only the pressing character of these economic problems, but also the new circumstances which duly enforce intact solutions.

The lack of a detailed implementation program that is aimed at the resolution of many of these chronic problems is a critical issue that is addressed by the Prime Minister's important document. The missing plan of action gives ground for the belief that the statement itself is bound to the earlier recommendations of economic reforms that were presented almost seven years ago by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Among other things, the Bank/IMF suggestions only heighten foreign debt through repayment. When one recalls the aggravating problems in agriculture, the almost liberalized prices, the sales tax, the unstable external markets for Jordanian products, competition in the region's free market economies, etc., it becomes obvious that the poverty and unemployment problems will definitely deteriorate, with grave repercussions.

However, the safety valve is, hopefully, seen in the Government's unequivocal commitment to the following principles:

- Preservation of public liberties as enshrined in the Constitution, and full respect for human rights;
 - Constructive dialogue with the licensed political parties as national institutions which constitute partners in building a modern Jordan;
 - Introduction of an electoral law and putting public elections under the full and direct supervision of the judiciary; and
 - Combating financial, moral and administrative corruption.
- The practical translation of these basic and constitutional stipulations is the cornerstone of the citizen's dignity and loyalty to his homeland. It is at the same time the axiom of mobilizing people around all programs which serve the interests of the people and the country. It is finally the true involvement of the individual and the public which shapes the country's present and future life.



Kabarti

Radio Jordan optimistic about success of Financial Times Service

By Mohammad Adawiya
Special to The Star

REGULAR LISTENERS to Radio Jordan's English Service may have noticed a slight change to their line-up last fall with the addition of *The Financial Times Business News*. Now in its fifth month, Radio Jordan, encouraged by its initial success, is eager to expand the service and its audience.

The service's conception, oddly enough, has its roots with the recent ending of hostilities with Israel. "Since the peace accord with Israel, the most pressing issue is economics," Mr Jawad Zada, director of Foreign Services at Radio Jordan explains. Realizing this fact, and hoping to capitalize on it, Mr Zada negotiated an arrangement with the *Financial Times* Syndication Group in London to provide Radio Jordan with a daily bulletin. "The *Financial Times* has the best reputation in Europe and the Middle East," Mr Zada notes. "They guaranteed that we would be the first to have the bulletin in the Middle East." Appreciating the significance of this, Mr Zada embarked on his goal of providing the region with quality economic and business news.

"Since October 1995, Radio Jordan's English Service has been presenting a daily News Desk geared to the businessperson, which includes the latest on world financial markets and economic and business news," the radio station director boasts proudly. To his knowledge, Radio Jordan is the only station in the area which offers *Financial Times* news, and with a broadcast time of 7:00 am every morning, listeners are able to get valuable business news even before major financial capitals such as London and Frankfurt.

Through casual feedback, Mr Zada believes the show is finding its audience. "We have received phone calls thanking us for the service and telling us that they make it a point to listen to the segment," Mr Zada explains.

With the addition of *The Financial Times Business News*, Radio Jordan has met its objective of providing timely and accurate economic and business news to the region. In an effort to improve the service, the station is currently in the process of conducting a systematic survey with the business community. Depending on the results, the station's future plans possibly include gearing the service more towards a regional audience through more emphasis on regional business events.

Mohammad Adawiya, along with Riad Al Khouri present *The Financial Times Business News* which can be heard on Radio Jordan's English Service (FM 96.3 MHz or MW 855 KHz) as part of News Desk at 7:00 am every morning.



Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EXTENSION OF TENDER NO. 9/95 COMPUTER SYSTEM

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces the extension of Tender No.9/95 until 17th March, 1996 instead of 3rd March, 1996.

CHAIRMAN
ABDUL MAJEED SHOMAN

MARKET WATCH 2-5 March

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market			
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
* Arab Electrical Industry 1.64 * Jordan National Bank 0.92 * Jordan Islamic Bank 0.75	* Jordan Islamic Bank 2.00 * Land Development Union 1.12 * Housing Bank 0.97	* Irbid District Electricity 5.22 * General Mineral 1.50 * Universal Industry 1.48	* Middle East Complex 1.41 * Jordan Gulf Bank 1.06 * General Mineral 0.74
* Jordan Tobacco & Cigarettes 5.00 * General Mineral 5.00 * Jordan Industry Supplies 4.12	* Arab Financial Investment 4.55 * Nayzak Dies & Moulds 4.48 * Middle East Pharm. 4.05	* Parliamentary Paper Industry 5.19 * JIMCO 5.13 * National Plastic Factory 4.38	* Rafia Industrial 5.19 * Jordan Rock Woolen 5.26 * National Eng. Industries 5.00
General Price Pointer 153.610	153.468	152.410	151.330
Trade Volume 1007361	614358	843075	535272
Stock Volume 345679	347918	382889	354526
Highest Traded Stocks			
* Arab Bank 206.060	* Jordan Islamic Bank 127.482	* Jordan Islamic Bank 191.656	* Gulf Bank 75.837

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Palestine Post

Edited by Marwan Al Asmar

A Committee for the Defence of the National Charter

● A Palestinian Committee for the Defence of the National Charter has been set up. It is understood that the committee includes members of the opposition and some independents who belong to the Palestinian National Council. The committee seeks to campaign against amendments to the Palestinian National Charter and particularly those clauses that deal with the existence of Israel. The latter insists that the clauses dealing with the Zionist state should be abolished. The Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is presently gathering PNC members in the West Bank and Gaza to hold such an extraordinary session to remove these clauses.

Newspapers: Not allowed in Gaza

● In an unprecedented move, the Israeli authorities would not allow Arabic newspapers to enter Gaza last week. In a bid to impose a total security zone around the strip, the Israeli army turned cars away who were carrying newspapers at the Erez checkpoint which divides Gaza from Israel. The director of the Ministry of Information strongly criticized this decision and said the security zone is a collective punishment which violates basic human rights. He added that the decision not to allow newspapers in Gaza was an attempt by the Israelis to stifle freedom of speech. It seems in the week later that the Israeli army allowed newspapers to enter the strip but only in the afternoon.

Palestinian economy lost more than \$700 million as a result of closures.

● The Palestinian economy lost more than \$700 million as a result of Israeli imposed closures. And this is only since May 1994 when the Palestinian National Authority took over control. A recent report by the PNA's Ministry of Labour points out the last closure of the territories brings the total economic losses to \$726 million. This is far more than the financial aid which the PNA has received from the donor countries so far. According to the report, since the arrival of the PNA, Israel has closed off the Palestinian areas 23 times resulting in 333 lost working days. This is on average six lost days a month. This means that for every day lost, the areas lose \$6 million. According to Palestinian statistics, the rate of employment in Gaza is 51 percent and 33 percent in the West Bank.

Christian-Zionist conference condemned!

● The holding of the Third Christian-Zionist Movement Conference was deeply criticized by Christians and Churches in the West Bank. At the Centre for Religious and Archaeological Studies in the Holy Land, representatives of the various Christian denominations felt angry. They said the Conference which was organized by the Jerusalem-based International Christian Embassy in no way represents their views. The representatives added that it also undermines the role of churches among the local Palestinian population. The head of the center Dr Jeryas Khouri said that the Christian-Zionist Movement has stands opposed to the church and it in effect supports the official Israeli policy and that includes the settlement policy. He added that these Christians are fundamentalist who are deeply mistaken in their understandings and interpretation of the Holy Book, which supports the political interests of Israel. He pointed out that such ideas and interpretations are rejected by many Christians in the West and the East, who regarded this new church as heresy.

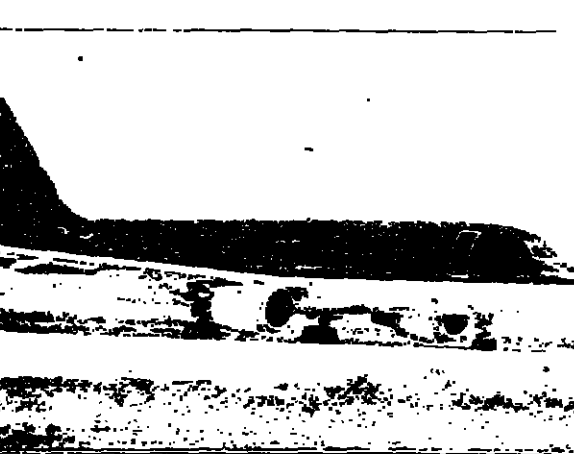
Sakakini lives on

● The Cultural Center in Ramallah is to be renamed as the Khalil Al Sakakini Cultural Center. The Minister of Information Yasser Abed Rabbo will do the honors and open the center this month. He said Al Sakakini is an intellectual figure and an educationalist who is well known in Palestinian culture. The center will include a main hall for different cultural activities such as art, music and folklore. Seminars will also be held there.

Car theft: A curse that could be stopped

● Car theft in the West Bank has increased tremendously as the Palestine National Authority took control over the area. There is cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli police in this matter, but still there could be "more cooperation." Car theft has been a growing phenomena. Israeli cars are brought into the Palestinian areas and are then sold. Palestinian police say it is up to the Israeli police to impose greater control in checkpoints. They charge, that the lax control emanates from the fact the car theft, if left unhindered, would negatively affect the Palestinian economy.

RJ on skies of Tel Aviv



● Royal Jordanian will start flying to Tel Aviv as of next month. Hovering over the skies of Israel, it will land at Lod Airport. Similarly, an Israeli airline will start similar operations to Amman. The price tag for a single ticket will be \$120.

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Tel: 652308
Fax: 648298

After first Jerusalem bombing Peres vows to 'separate' Israelis, Palestinians

By Doug Struck
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—A somber Prime Minister Shimon Peres, reeling from the bus bombing that killed 19 last Sunday, vowed to impose "separation" between Israelis and Palestinians and ordered a massive buildup of security forces in the capital.

"We will fill this city" with police and army, Peres said as he promised to wage an "all-encompassing war" on Muslim extremists who had set off three bombs in eight days. Soon after he spoke, army trucks began to trundle into Jerusalem and numerous soldiers appeared on the streets. Peres said everyone who boards a bus will be inspected for bombs, and that the government will recruit 800 "excellent and experienced combat soldiers" to ride buses.

The latest in a two-year staccato beat of suicide bombings occurred aboard public bus No. 18 on Jerusalem's main street early Sunday. The victims included 11 Israelis, six Romanian workers, an Ethiopian tourist and the suicide bomber, identified as a 24-year-old Palestinian from Hebron. Seven of the injured were in critical condition.

The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying that it was the last retaliation for the assassination in January of Hamas activist Yehiya Ayyash, allegedly by Israeli agents.

The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying that it was the last retaliation for the assassination in January of Hamas activist Yehiya Ayyash, allegedly by Israeli agents

Two bombings a week earlier also were said by Hamas to be in response to the Ayyash slaying, bringing the total killed in retaliation to 46. Peres responded angrily when asked at a news conference if he agreed that the killing of Ayyash had been the cause of the bombings.

"Each time there is a suicide bomb or attack we should point a finger at ourselves? Why should we do that?" he snapped.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem reeled with anger and despair. Residents were unnerved that such a powerful bomb could erupt in the heart of the city—on the same bus route that was hit only a week earlier—despite a week-old ban on Palestinian entry into Jerusalem and other security measures.

Throughout the day, police scuffled with Jewish protesters who held a loud vigil at the site of the bombing. The mangled bus had been quickly hauled away and the streets washed clean of blood. Demonstrators unsuccessfully stormed police barricades to try to get into Arab quarters of the Old City. At least one Palestinian was injured when he was

stoned by Israelis. The separation plan Peres endorsed has broad implications. If implemented, it would entail a barrier between Palestinians and Israelis that would re-establish a border that Israel has tried for most of 29 years to erase.

Although the route of this "separation line" has not been set, it likely would segregate

Israel from the West Bank along Israel's 1948 borders. Israel captured the West Bank in 1967, and Jewish settlers and the political right have tried for years to make it a part of Israel.

From now on, passage from one side to another will be supervised, and only be allowed only at certain crossing points, Peres said. He said the military will be given orders to completely prevent "illegal entry of vehicles and people" from Palestinian areas into Israel.

Although "closures" have been a common occurrence for nearly a decade, the line between the West Bank and Israel is invisible and guarded only by checkpoints on major roads. They can easily be circumvented on back roads and trails by Palestinians willing to risk arrest and fines. To find many Palestinians cross illegally, with the encouragement of Israeli employers.

Peres now has endorsed a plan favored by his assassin's predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, that calls for strict segregation. He said the government will allocate \$80 million for the separation line, which will require sections of fences,



guards and electronic monitors along nearly 200 miles.

Other measures announced by Peres included a return to a former Israeli policy of sealing with cement or blowing up the houses of families of Palestinians who carry out the attacks. He said families would not be permitted to celebrate the

"martyrdom" of relatives who carry out suicide attacks.

Peres said the policy would be enforced by Israel in areas it controls, and implied that Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian authority, would be expected to enforce it in the Gaza Strip and six West Bank cities he now controls.

How the CIA saved the lives of four Mossad agents

By James Risen
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—The Mossad agents were on the run, winding through the crowded streets of Khartoum, one step ahead of Sudan's secret police and their Libyan allies. The Israeli spies had been betrayed by Sudanese informants, their cover as European businessmen blown and their station—disguised as a private business office—compromised. They had managed to salvage only their secret communications gear before speeding off into the dark.

Their destination: Milton Bearden's house. For the next 30 days, Bearden, Khartoum station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, hid the four agents from Sudanese authorities, moving them from one CIA house to another to prevent their capture and likely execution.

Finally, the CIA arranged a remarkable escape, packing the four into crates custom-fitted with oxygen tanks, then shipping them as cargo on a Kenya-bound aircraft, just as their pursuers were closing in. The story of how the CIA rescued the Mossad agents in Sudan has never before been told, and it helps to shed new light on the ties between the US and Israeli intelligence agencies, one of the least understood, most complex relationships in the espionage world.

With the demise of the Russian KGB, no other spy service remains so shrouded in mystery and intrigue as Israel's Mossad. In the post-Cold War world where US intelligence agencies are giant bureaucracies facing constant congressional oversight, Mossad stands as a tough, daring spy service stripped down for fighting with a clear-cut goal—ensuring the survival of the Jewish state.

Mossad's reputation for independence and ruthless action is legendary. But its effectiveness has always relied to a significant degree on its close ties with the CIA, its institutional big brother in the West. Increasingly, though, that relationship is complicated

by a growing feeling among some in the American national security establishment that it has become too one-sided.

Mossad, some US sources complain, has done little recently to help US efforts to track down international terrorists, even in the Middle East. For example, America neutralized teams of Iraqi assassins and terrorist agents sent out by Iraq's Saddam Hussein during the Persian Gulf crisis without help from Mossad, US intelligence sources say.

Worse, some in the United States now see Israeli intelligence as a post-Cold War rival that has made America a prime target for its spying, for both political and economic information.

"By all accounts, the Israelis are among the most active foreign intelligence services operating in the United States," observes Jeffrey Richelson, an author and expert on US intelligence.

In fact, a decade after US naval intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard was imprisoned for spying for Israel, a Defense Department memo on counterintelligence recently labeled Israel a "nontraditional adversary" on espionage matters. The memo caused a furor in the American Jewish community after it was leaked, because it suggested that Israeli intelligence relied on "strong ethnic ties" to American Jews to conduct its spying. It was quickly disavowed by the Pentagon and the report was withdrawn.

Both the CIA and Israeli government refused to com-

ment on any aspect of the intelligence relationship between the CIA and Mossad.

But US experts believe that Israel aggressively spies on America because of—and in spite of—its reliance on Washington for economic and military aid. Politically, Israel needs to know where US policy toward the Jewish state is heading; economically, it craves US technology to maintain its high-tech military.

Despite the ambiguities in the relationship, the ties between many CIA and Mossad officers in the field remain close and the agencies can work together well.

In the 1990s, for example, in another episode never before disclosed, the CIA agreed to broker secret meetings in Germany between Mossad and the Palestinian Liberation Front, as Israeli intelligence sought to reduce conflicts on the espionage front.

Further, observers say, the Clinton administration is likely to offer even greater intelligence support to Israel if it agrees to give up the Golan Heights—and its critical listening posts—as part of a peace treaty with Syria.

On a personal level, Bearden, who retired from the CIA in 1994, says he and his colleagues felt a sense of "brotherhood" with Mossad. And when the issue was life or death, any hint of rivalry vanished. The CIA rescue of the Mossad agents in Khartoum was clearly a high point in the secret partnership.

In the spring of 1985, a mili-

tary coup in Sudan led to the overthrow of President Jafar Numeiri, a pro-US leader. Numeiri was in Washington at the time of the coup, but many of his top lieutenants were not so lucky. They were quickly arrested, severing the CIA's ties to the Sudanese government.

Meanwhile, Libyan agents working for Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi began arriving to support the new Islamic government.

The situation grew more grim when the new Sudanese authorities received a tip disclosing the existence and location of the secret Israeli intelligence station in Khartoum. With the airport closed and no way out of the country, the Mossad agents had few alternatives; Israel had no diplomatic relations with Sudan, so it had no embassy to provide a haven.

Desperate, the agents reached out to the CIA and Bearden.

Two Mossad agents knocked on the front door of Bearden's home, unloaded their communications gear and moved into an upstairs bedroom. They were soon joined by a third Mossad agent from their station; a few days later, a fourth agent—sent in under cover by Israel to try to rescue the others—was there too.

Outside, on Khartoum's streets, the Sudanese and Libyans were hunting them, Bearden recalls.

But the CIA was soon able to monitor which part of the city the Sudanese would be scouring each night, and

moved the agents from house to house. Every few nights, a darkness minutes from the US Embassy would shuttle the Mossad agents and their CIA minders, all packing sidearms, among three sites—Bearden's home, that of another CIA officer and a CIA safe house.

Finally, Bearden said, the Sudanese authorities grew suspicious of the Americans. "We stayed ahead of them," Bearden recalled. "But the hunt for them was going on all over town."

Desperate, Bearden gambled, telling the CIA and Mossad he planned to crate up the agents and fly them out of Khartoum airport.

CIA technicians built special crates, one for each Mossad agent. The crates were fitted with holes and plastic tubes for breathing, as well as solid-state oxygen tanks in case the holes were blocked. The CIA arranged for a cargo aircraft to fly into Khartoum after the airport was reopened. A van from the US Embassy carried the crates. Mossad agents straight from Bearden's house to the airport. A CIA officer rode in the front seat; there were two more in back with the boxes. The embassy driver bluffed his way through airport security.

The plan seemed to be going smoothly, until Bearden got a tip that the Sudanese had figured out that he was hiding the Israeli spies, and that he was somehow trying to get them to Kenya. About the same time, the CIA officers at the airport reported that a Sudanese helicopter had begun to hover suspiciously nearby.

Bearden immediately called on a secure telephone, ordering the plane to take off and get the Mossad agents out. As soon as the crates were aboard, the plane turned and moved onto the tarmac. Despite nervous calls from the Khartoum tower, the plane took off without incident. By the time it landed in Nairobi, the Mossad men were out of their crates, with new identities to cover their travel back to Israel.

Soon, Bearden got word that he might be a target of an assassination attempt by the Libyans in Sudan. He didn't push his luck for long. He quickly left for a new assignment.

Somalis make city thrive amid anarchy

By Stephen Backley
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BOOSAAISO, Somalia—For much of its history, this dot on northeast Somalia's mostly barren desert landscape has been a dreary, underdeveloped outpost with a battered economy, few government services and virtually no infrastructure.

Then, in 1991, Somalia's government fell. The country tumbled into civil war. In Boosaaso, that has meant harnessing community resources and talent to jump-start its import-export-based economy and provide crucial services. A businessman has established a city-wide telephone system. Teachers work for no salary. A volunteer police force has been created. Boosaaso's council of Muslim elders effectively acts as the town's judiciary.

Today Boosaaso, without a formal government, has become a boom town, with one of Somalia's busiest ports, a burgeoning population and the kind of daily stability envied by much of this deeply troubled East African country.

Boosaaso's story is increasingly common throughout sub-Saharan Africa, where many communities, abandoned by governments have either dissolved or become hopelessly dysfunctional.

In Liberia, paralyzed by civil war, rural residents banded together to improve food-growing techniques, working jointly to make planting and harvesting more efficient.

Rural Nigerians, victims of a vicious economic downturn that has brought prohibitively high prices, have fashioned food-sharing schemes to ensure that their communities do not starve.

In Zaire, where citizens have suffered under three decades of one of the continent's more corrupt regimes, businessmen have stepped in to pay salaries of soldiers and policemen.

"Throughout the continent, governments have been conspicuous in their absence," said Rakiya Omar, a Somali who heads the London-based African Rights organization. "They have not provided basics such as water, schools, hospitals. For a large percentage of people, government has just not been there."

In some cases, Africans have revived, or strengthened, traditional cultural habits and institutions that dominated their lives before Western-style governments came to their countries.

"We have had to go back to our roots," said Gen. Mohamed Abdirahman. Boosaaso's facto administrator. "We have had to go back to traditional ways of solving our problems."

Much of this fractured country has not found peace, as fighting between groups loyal to clan leaders Mohamed Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi Mohamed continues.

Since UN peacekeepers left Somalia a year ago, Mogadishu, its capital, has remained the country's most unstable area. Mogadishu's port, once Somalia's most important, is closed, and thousands of residents have bolted for the countryside.

Bursts of fighting still ripple through Somalia's rural areas, but some have carved out a semblance of normalcy, forming governing authorities, and opening schools.

Perched between desert wasteland and the stunning blue vastness of the Gulf of Aden, Boosaaso, 905 miles north of Mogadishu, is moderately successful.

Hotels, some with satellite dishes, have sprouted all over town. Piles of rocks, signifying places where residents are about to build, litter the city.

Boosaaso's population, estimated at 100,000, has increased fivefold since Somalia's government disintegrated. Boosaaso has lured Somalis from other major groups, unusual in a land riven by inter-clan tensions.

Boosaaso has attracted refugees from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Tens of thousands of former Mogadishu residents have flocked here. They are people like Amur Ahmed Mohamed, who traveled nine days—mostly through bush to avoid bandits—with

Continued on page 7

NATO

Eyeing exits from Balkans

NATO officials said the Clinton administration has agreed to keep a "commanding presence" in Bosnia at least through the Bosnian elections, tentatively slated for late August or September. But after that event, most planners expect to see significant numbers of US troops pulling out as the US election nears.

By Rick Atkinson

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BRUSSELS—NATO faces a serious internal split over the size and shape of a successor military force that may be needed to preserve stability in Bosnia once the current peacekeeping operation ends, alliance officials said.

Although Operation Joint Endeavor is only in the third month of a deployment intended to last a year, the problem of how to exit Bosnia without plunging the country back into chaos is emerging as one of the toughest issues confronting alliance planners.

"The whole question of what happens at the end of 12 months is now a very uncomfortable subject," said one senior official at NATO's headquarters here. "There's a potential for a big split between the Americans and some of the other allies."

For reasons both political and military, the Clinton administration has insisted that NATO's intervention must end no later than 20 December, 1996, precisely a year after the alliance took over peacekeeping duties from a beleaguered UN contingent. Facing a reelection challenge in November, President Clinton is adamant about keeping the one-year pledge he made to a skeptical public and Congress, according to US officials.

"We, as NATO, took a very careful decision about how long we were pre-

pared to stay. We agreed on a year," Robert Hunter, the US ambassador to NATO, said in an interview. "We went in together... We don't want this to turn into a Cyprus, an open-ended thing."

But several allies have quietly begun questioning whether a calendar-driven endgame is prudent and whether NATO should contemplate a successor force to safeguard whatever stability the Western alliance establishes this year.

NATO sources said the Dutch, Danes and Norwegians have raised the issue in one form or another. Also, some non-NATO countries participating in the Bosnian operation, notably the Swedes, have indicated "they'd be willing to stay if others will stay," one NATO official said.

British Prime Minister John Major, whose 13,000-troop Bosnian contingent is second in size only to the Americans' 20,000, voiced doubts last week about whether the allotted time will suffice and suggested that alternatives should be considered.

"I hope we can have the work done by the end of the year," Major told the Western European Union, the 10-nation defense wing of the 15-nation European Union. "If the work isn't done, we need to examine what can be done to ensure the work can be done."

The subject is so sensitive that NATO ambassadors, meeting informally agreed to avoid public commentary on Bosnia

issues beyond "D plus 120 days," a key benchmark that falls on 18 April and marks the last major military milestone under the peace accord negotiated last fall near Dayton, Ohio. The warring parties agreed to have withdrawn all heavy weapons and military forces into designated areas by that date.

"We're still at D plus 60-something, and to me it's no time to think about D plus 365," NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said in an interview. "It's too early to open a debate about what is going to happen at the end."

If not publicly debated, however, the matter is being quietly contemplated. Civilian analysts and military officers alike suspect that preserving the Bosnian peace will require an international force more militarily robust than the police cadres now assembling but less imposing than the 60,000-strong NATO force currently in place.

A half-dozen NATO officials, in conversations last week, raised these and other potential options: a modest "follow-on force" under UN auspices, similar in



figurations are US ground troops, a reflection of the seriousness with which Washington's vow to pull out in a year is taken. A US Army paratroop battalion, which recently returned to its home base in Italy after temporarily providing security around the US headquarters at the Tuzla air base, already has rehearsed the withdrawal route designed for the bulk of the US contingent.

NATO officials said the Clinton administration has agreed to keep a "commanding presence" in Bosnia at least through the Bosnian elections, tentatively slated for late August or September. But after that event, most planners expect to see significant numbers of US troops pulling out as the US election nears.

Still unclear is whether a follow-on force would have NATO air power and other alliance assets—such as transportation, logistics and intelligence—at its disposal.

Officials in Brussels said they are determined to avoid the kind of awkward fracturing of authority that plagued the UN operation in Bosnia, when NATO's com-

mand structure held sway in the sky while UN commanders called the shots on the ground. Yet a follow-on NATO force without significant US participation—dubbed "NATO Light" by one observer—could undermine Washington's role as the acknowledged leader of the alliance, particularly if France sees such an operation as a chance to increase its influence.

In the shorter term, NATO troops probably will take a more active role this spring in helping the civilian reconstruction effort in Bosnia, according to alliance officials. NATO commanders have long voiced concern at the slow pace of the \$5 billion rebuilding program headed by Swedish former prime minister Carl Bildt. As one alliance official put it, NATO can "pull out of Bosnia and declare victory only if there's success across the board, and that includes on the civilian side."

U.S. Army Gen. George A. Joulwan, the alliance's supreme commander, offered Bildt the services of NATO's extensive planning staff in an effort to encourage the drafting of a master plan to give reconstruction some momentum. Although initially wary of being swallowed up by the military, Bildt recently accepted the offer, NATO sources said.

Bildt also has agreed to give NATO a list of priority projects that could profit from NATO expertise and manpower. Officials here cited road building, bridge repair and other "catalyst function" projects that could boost an economy in which virtually all industrial capacity and much of the infrastructure was destroyed during three years of war.

"What can we do to jump-start the economy? Is it opening a road, opening an airport, getting the electricity grid up again or rebuilding a power station?" one NATO official asked.

Although Joulwan and his subordinate commanders are concerned about accumulating additional duties, a process called "mission creep," they acknowledge the need to lend a hand in reconstruction as long as the effort does not detract from their main military tasks, the official added. ■

Gorbachev for president

Sidelined by society

By Lee Hockstader

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MOSCOW—Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev declared last Friday that he will run for the Russian presidency, insisting he could win as the leader of a democratic coalition despite polls indicating he is deeply unpopular.

Having toyed publicly with the idea of a comeback since at least mid-1993, Gorbachev's announcement was no surprise.

Perhaps mindful of Gorbachev's popularity ratings of less than one percent in the polls, *Izvestia*, the capital's leading newspaper, ignored the announcement altogether.

Friday's evening news broadcasts gave it short shrift, mentioning it only after items on the fighting in Chechnya, the first anniversary of the assassination of a popular television personality, a special report on life in the southern region of Kabardino-Balkaria and the doings of President Boris Yeltsin, the man who eclipsed Gorbachev in 1991.

Gorbachev was named Soviet leader in 1985 and brought unprecedented changes to the Communist-ruled nation through his policies of *glasnost* (openness) and *perestroika* (restructuring). The effects of his reforms were limited, however, by his dedication to preserving communism and, after surviving an abortive coup by hard-liners in 1991, he reluctantly presided over the breakup of the Soviet Union at the end of that year.

In a news conference, Gorbachev, who just celebrated his 65th birthday, bitterly dismissed his low public standing, asserting,

as he has in the past, that it is part of a government-controlled plot. His real support, he says, is far greater.

He called on all democratic forces in Russia to unite in a broad coalition, declared himself ready to lead it and warned of the consequences of a "false choice" between Yeltsin's government and the Communist Party, both of which he lavished with criticism.

"What they are offering is not a democratic future for Russia," he said. "That is why we must unite."

Asked if he plans to run even if no such coalition responds to his call, Gorbachev replied, "Yes, I will."

He then said he was not formally declaring his candidacy for president, even though he had already said that

"in my heart I am prepared for that."

It appeared highly unlikely that any prominent politician would join Gorbachev in a coalition, much less one that the former Soviet president would lead. Gorbachev said Grigory Yavlinsky, a reformist economist who is running for president, might be a potential ally. But a spokesman for Yavlinsky mentioned Gorbachev's poll ratings and dismissed his coalition proposal as "not very realistic."

For years, virtually since he was expelled from his Kremlin office in December 1991 by Yeltsin, Gorbachev has waged a twilight struggle against obscurity at home while basking in adulation abroad. With each of Yeltsin's missteps, Gorbachev would blast his

former arch-rival in interviews from the spacious offices of the Gorbachev Foundation, his private think tank. But he was accorded little attention.

Still vigorous, self-confident and much healthier than Yeltsin, Gorbachev can barely contain his frustration at having been sidelined in a society that is rapidly changing.

He has struggled to comprehend the depth of his unpopularity at home, where some people, especially the elderly, blame him for the collapse of their beloved Soviet Union while others remember him as a volatile, slightly creaky old-timer who never really gave up on communism.

"He is a person who has an old mind and an old mentality," said Vladimir Fomichev, 65, a factory worker. "I don't think he fits in this new democratic society. As president he was unpredictable and indecisive and he wasn't able to pursue a policy of democratic transformation." Said Yuri Kuznetsov, 30, a computer engineer: "He was a windbag and a miserable president."

That sentiment was reflected in the news conference, in which Gorbachev was asked about some of his Soviet government's failings—to block unified Germany's entrance into NATO and to provide immediate, accurate warnings to residents around the Chernobyl nuclear reactor in Ukraine when it malfunctioned in 1986 in the world's worst nuclear accident.

"It's an enormously human story," said Stephen Cohen, a Princeton University historian who has written extensively, and sympathetically, on Gorbachev.

"This is a man who feels that he is cheated by history, that he is the father of Russian democracy, the father of Russian reforms and that he can set reforms on a course where they would be stable."

"Here's a man who's already a historical figure entering a campaign. How many historical figures are walking around asking for votes? You just don't see things like this."

lack of arrests undermines Balkans war crimes panel

By Tyler Marshall
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands—Things might seem to be going Graham Blewitt's way.

After two years on the job, the man who set up the prosecutor's office at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia here can chart progress:

■ Fifty-three suspected war criminals formally indicted, including a senior Bosnian Serb commander charged last Friday for his role in the indiscriminate shelling of civilians during the four year siege of Sarajevo.

■ A commitment last November's Dayton, Ohio, peace accords binding the warring parties to cooperate with his team.

■ New help promised by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led peace force, known as IFOR.

■ And even a further pledge from Croat, Serb and Bosnian Muslim leaders in Rome guaranteeing war-crimes investigators access to mass graves in Bosnia, as well as to any individuals there they wish to talk to.

But one big, growing problem overshadows all this: a disturbing lack of arrests. It is a problem that threatens the tribunal's credibility and its longer-term effectiveness.

Despite the impressive-sounding vows of support, prosecutors have, so far, been able to lay hands on only one of 52 persons indicted—a Bosnian Serb thug named Dusho Tadic, arrested in Germany two years ago, and Bosnian Serb Lt. Gen. Djordje Djukic, whom the tribunal had barely heard of before he and a second Serb officer fell into Bosnian government hands under mysterious Tadic, charged with crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Convention and violations of the rules and customs of war, is scheduled to go on trial 7 May.

The first preliminary hearing in the Djukic case is scheduled for Monday.

For Blewitt, the tribunal's deputy chief prosecutor, and others struggling to bring the named suspects to justice, the dearth of arrests is worrisome. "The fact it isn't happening is causing all sorts of problems," he admitted in a recent interview here.

It also has not helped the tribunal's image that IFOR troops have reportedly encountered the most prominent of the 52 so far indicted—Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic—but made no attempt to detain him.

Blewitt, an Australian lawyer who tracked evidence of Nazi war criminals in his own country for six years before being appointed to the tribunal here, claims the lack of progress in arresting any of the remaining 44 Bosnian Serb suspects has eroded whatever incentive Croatian authorities might have had to deliver any of the seven indicted Croats.

"The other parties are saying, 'Why should we cooperate with you when the Serbs are not? Why should we surrender our people to your process when the real aggressors are getting away with it,'" he noted.

Blewitt is also concerned that the absence of arrests and trials could erode broader global support for the tribunal, and, with it, the United Nations' political will to continue funding the investigative body, whose budget has quadrupled to \$40 million since 1994.

"I don't know what their attitude is, but the fact we're not having many trials or many people arrested as a result of indictments must be raising questions in (UN headquarters in) New York whether the funds they are putting in are worth it," he said. "If we could start arresting the people we've indicted and the trials can start, then I think everything else will fall into place after that."

To create a semblance of movement, the tribunal has twice fallen back on a provision, known as Rule 61, that invites prosecutors to present war-crime evidence at a public hearing without suspects present. While such hearings are said to help victims and witnesses tell their stories in open court, tribunal sources admit they are used only if prosecutors believe chances of arresting a suspect are poor.

Just why the chances of arresting indicted war criminals remain so dismal reflects, at least in part, the distance between word and deed in the Balkans, even when the word is presidential.

Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic and his Croatian counterpart Franjo Tudjman both have signed the Dayton agreement, requiring them to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes; they expanded that commitment in Rome last month. But concrete steps have been painfully slow.

After refusing even to recognize the tribunal, Milosevic eventually authorized the opening of a tribunal office in Belgrade. But no visa has been issued to the tribunal officer assigned there. After two years of prodding, Tudjman has finally begun the process of amending the Croatian constitutional provision that he claims has prevented him from extraditing the seven suspected Croat war criminals; the going here is also slow.

Although the amendment was to have been passed into law by the end of February, it remains bogged in Croatian parliamentary procedure. And just in case there was any doubt about Tudjman's sentiments, only days after the tribunal indicted Tihomir Blaskic, a senior Bosnian Croat officer, on charges that included crimes against humanity, Tudjman promoted the officer to the post of inspector general of the Croatian army. ■



World Media Handbook

Vital for communication

NEW YORK (UN)—The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) is launching its 1995 directory of selected media and related data covering more than 180 countries. In some 350 pages the publication, entitled *World Media Handbook*, integrates a wealth of data not available from any other single source.

The Handbook sets out in a concise format demographic data and communication statistics, and provides a list of more than 1,300 daily newspapers, 1,900 magazines and other periodicals, 250 news agencies, some 1,200 broadcasting organizations, 400 journalists' associations, as well as more than 300 educational institutions who teach communications. Each entry provides the names of leading editorial personnel; mailing addresses; telephone and fax numbers; circulation figures and frequency of publication.

The media entries contained in the Handbook were drawn from various international directories and other sources and verified locally—during the second half of 1994—by the worldwide network of United Nations Information Centres and Services, as well as by the country offices of the United Nations Development Programme.

As a special commemorative issue of the United Nations 50th anniversary, the

1995 edition contains a new section entitled "Membership Brief." This section outlines each country's participation in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as in the boards and councils of particular organs and specialized agencies through which the United Nations system contributes to media development and the enhancement of international communication.

In a foreword to the Handbook, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali points out that the 50 years of the Organization's existence have been marked by "a sweeping democratization of the world order," which was manifest in the strength of the United Nations membership and the character of government in Member States. "Equally vivid," he adds, "has been the growth and expansion of democracy's trust protector and ally—vigilant, responsible and compassionate media."

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, in a preface to the publication, states that the new edition will be



whether as practitioners, students or researchers.

Originally conceived as a reference tool for information professionals within the United Nations system, the *World Media Handbook* has acquired a major following among media practitioners, journalists and mass communication scholars, public affairs officers and representatives of non-governmental organizations worldwide.

The first edition of the Handbook was selected for inclusion in the 1990 Notable Documents List of the American Library Association, which commended the United Nations for its concern for quality of communication between agencies and their constituents. Its second edition was awarded an Honourable Mention in the 1993 competition for the Prize for Excellence in Information Services by the International Communication Association's Council of Communication Libraries.

Limited references copies of the Handbook are available at the press documents counter on the third floor. It will also be available at United Nations depository libraries around the world. The next edition of the Handbook will be published in 1997.

helpful to those whose daily work depends on their ability to reach multicultural audiences through the mass media, and to those who deal with communications and international affairs,

Somalis make city thrive amid anarchy

Continued from page 6

his wife and three daughters before arriving here last June.

Three of his siblings died during the war. His wife and children lived at the mercy of thugs who camped in front of Mohamed's house.

Today Mohamed, 23, works 12 hours a day. He takes home \$50 a week, a fortune for him. He is planning to build a house and is looking to buy a car.

Boosaso's primary source of revenue is its port, built just as Somalia's government was collapsing. The facility on the shores of the Gulf of Aden crackles with daily activity, as dhows and ships from the Arab states bring a bevy of goods that fill Boosaso's stores and markets.

Boosaso relies primarily on exports of livestock, annually sending tens of thousands of goats, sheep and camels into Saudi Arabia

and the United Arab Emirates.

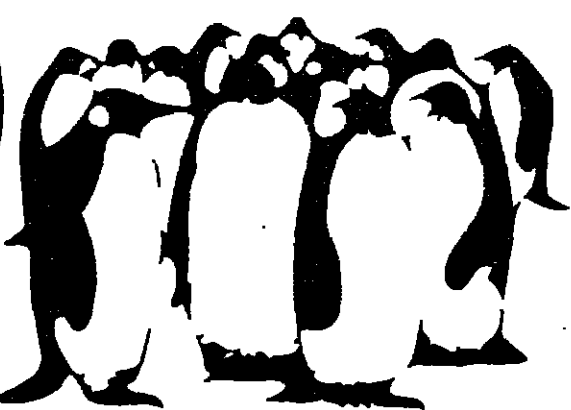
The port contributes to the upkeep of the town's police station, schools, hospital and power station. UN agencies and local and international aid groups provide financial support.

The port helps keep institutions such as the Haji Mire primary school running. At the school, Boosaso's largest, every student has pen, paper and workbooks. Their teachers have chalk. Such basic tools are often missing in sub-Saharan Africa's schools.

Teachers and administrators at the 900-pupil school work for food supplied by two UN aid groups, but most supplement that "income." Headmaster Mohoud Aheol Mohoud said community elders help supply his food. A host of relatives provide shelter.

The city also has a reliable power supply and, thanks to businessman Ismail Abdi Ahmed, a telephone system for the first time in its history. ■

AROUND TOWN



Major cultural event to be held in Amman

THE THIRD International Forum of Independent Tropes (The Amman Theater Festival) will be held at the Royal Cultural Center from 27 of this month till 10 April. It is organized by the Fawanees Theater Company and the Ministry of Culture.

This is a world event of culture, art and theater. Many groups from different countries will take part: Besides Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Bahrain, Palestine, France Spain, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and the Ukraine will take part.

The groups will perform selections from their plays, hold workshops and discuss some of plays performed. A special workshop on theater-in-education will also be organized.

Radio Monte Carlo will give daily broadcasts of 1 hour of the news and views of the forum.

Al Fawanees Theater Company will hold a press conference at the RCC on 9 March, where the full program will be made public. ■

Inter.Con and Unicef join forces for child protection

Part of Inter-Continental Hotels year long global celebration of its 50th anniversary, included the launching of a major fundraising campaign with the United Nations Children's Fund. Unicef is also celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The two organizations which are committed to raising at least \$1 million, hope that as much as \$5 million could be donated through the innovative "Round Up For Children" campaign to help save children's lives around the world.

"We were formed in 1946. In the same year Unicef was founded to care for the children of Europe following the World War II and since then it has grown to become the world's largest organization dedicated to children," said Raymond Khalife, Inter-Continental area president of the Middle East and Africa.

"Our campaign with the Unicef is helpful and yet unobtrusive," he said, and all the funds collected will be used to help bring hope and save lives. Our staff are fully behind our campaign and we'll be holding our own fundraising events throughout the year.

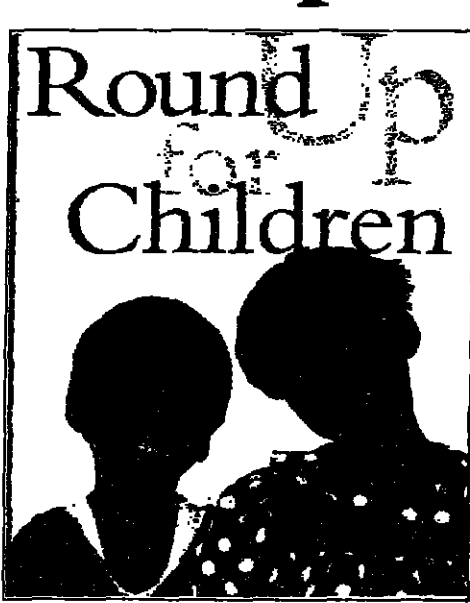
Guests staying at any one of Inter-Continental's 170 hotels in 67 countries will be provided with information about the campaign when they check-in. As they check-out they will be asked if they wish

to include a donation which will be applied directly to their final invoice. Any credit cards will also be accepted.

Dorrit Alopaus-Stahl, the area representative for Unicef said: "In the past 50 years UNICEF has helped to reduce global child mortality from 25 million a year to 12.5 million a year. But the figure is still too high and we are delighted that a world-wide company of this stature of Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts has committed itself to helping us reduce child mortality."

She added: "We will use the money raised to provide safe drinking water, to see that children are immunized against major diseases and establish wider health care and nutrition programs. These steps will help reduce the toll of needless deaths over the next 50 years."

Inter-Continental Hotels, now owned by the Saison Group of Japan, is one of world's leading international hotel chains. It was founded in 1946 by Pan-American World Airlines, and its first property



was the Grande in Belem in Brazil. Mr Chawki Ayoub, Jordan's Hotel Inter-Continental general manager, said 1995 was the hotel's most successful development year on record. He also said that the company's goal is to have 200 hotels and resorts by the year 2000.

Throughout 1996 Inter-Continental hotels and resorts and Forum hotels worldwide will be taking part in celebratory events. These include the opportunity for guests to win one of several solid gold bars worth \$12,500.

For the 50th anniversary celebration, the Jordan Inter-Continental which

opened in 1963 is planning an array of events to mark this occasion. It has started a local fundraising campaign in the lobby of the hotel, where there is a collection box for everyone to be able to make their contribution, said Mr Ayoub. "The hotel has also printed special envelopes, to be placed in all guests' rooms. Guests can place their remaining coins in these envelopes and drop them in the collection box."

Forthcoming activities are expected to include hosting a fund raising gala dinner in the summer with a special appearance of a well-known star and an open-day for the local community to show their new facilities as well as an Inter-Continental sporting event.

As part of the hotel's environmental drive, it will be launching an annual tree-planting campaign, aiming to plant an Inter-Continental forest near Amman. They are starting with the first 50 trees to mark the 50th anniversary of the hotel.

Recently, Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan has embarked on a massive expansion and renovation program aimed at maintaining its leading position as one of Amman's most prestigious hotels. The new plan includes increasing the number of guest rooms to 500, building a new health club with an indoor swimming pool, and enlarging the hotel's ballroom to make it the largest in town. ■

Cyprus Tourism Organisation has new chairman



NICOSIA—The Cypriot Council of Ministers has appointed Mr. Antonios Andronikou, as the new chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation. He succeeds Mr. Andreas Nicolaou, who resigned for personal reasons.

Mr. Andronikou is familiar with most of the issues concerned with the Cyprus tourism industry, since he has served as Director-General of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation for 17 years, from 1973 till 1989. During that period, he visited most of the Arab countries and is well known among the official and touristic circles.

He said his main objective is to work in close cooperation with all partners in tourism, for the benefit of everyone involved in the business of travel and leisure. ■

BM to restructure Airpass

British Midland Airways will restructure its Discover Europe Airpass by adding a second tier to the fixed price low fare plan from 1 April. Discover Europe Airpass discounts are available to non-European travellers flying between Britain and major European cities served by the airline.

With the Pass, longer flights between London and East Midlands Airports and European cities such as Bergen, Frankfurt, Malaga, Nice, Palma, Prague and Zurich will be priced at \$139 per coupon. Shorter flights to Amsterdam, Brussels and Paris will be priced at \$109 each way. Also with the Discover Europe Airpass, children between 2-13 years old will be given lower rates. ■

ADC points to anti-Arab stereotypes in Father of the Bride II

Among the latest motion picture releases, *Father of the Bride, Part II* attracted movie-goers looking for some laughs and light-hearted humor. Ethnic defamations were not part of the picture. Yet, there was no lack of anti-Arab stereotypes in the character of Mr. Habib, played by comedian Eugene Levy.

The film, which is a sequel to last year's box office hit *Father of the Bride*, features Steve Martin as George Banks, a father anxious about his daughter and wife being pregnant. George goes through the upheavals of a mid-life crisis at the prospect of becoming a grandfather, and make a spur-of-the-moment decision to sell his house. The only contender for the house is none other than Mr. Habib, an obnoxious and repulsive character who speaks with a thick accent and uses mock Arabic language.

Mr. Habib is portrayed as unscrupulous, cruel and shrewd. In the four minutes of screen time allotted to him, he manages to verbally abuse his wife, litter the Banks' garden, and extort \$100,000 from the family. In one scene, Mr. Habib's timid wife mutters something to him, to which Mr. Habib yells a few unintelligible words (supposedly in Arabic) that immediately make her quiet as she lowers her eyes to the ground.

Mr. Habib buys the Banks' house only to destroy it as he is more interested in the land on which it rests. When George Banks sees his old house on the verge of being demolished, he pleads and begs Mr. Habib not to go through with the demolition, explaining how much the house means to him and all the fond memories it holds. But Mr. Habib remains unaffected by this show of emotion. He only agrees to give the Banks their house back for an extra \$100,000.

The character of Mr. Habib serves to dehumanize Arabs and justify anti-Arab racism, especially in the absence of a balancing positive Arab character. As a result, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has asked Touchstone Pictures, which is a division of Walt Disney, to modify the video release of the film so as to alleviate the impact of its anti-Arab content.



In a letter to Joe Roth, Chairman of Walt Disney Pictures, ADC argued that ethnic stereotyping "impresses young and adult minds alike, and creates attitude that motivate acts of anti-Arab racism."

While most ethnic groups have "emerged from the darkness of [the] ugly tunnel" of ethnic defamations, "it is open season on the Arabs," ADC added.

In addition, ADC reminded Walt Disney of its prior agreement to consult with Arab American representatives on projects involving them. This agreement was reached during negotiations between ADC and Walt Disney regarding objectionable aspects of the 1993 animated film *Aladdin*. Following the negotiations, Walt Disney modified the video version of the film by changing offensive lyrics in the theme song and re-dubbing the voices of evil characters who spoke with Arabic accents. In addition, Walt Disney consulted with ADC representatives on *King of Thieves*—the sequel to *Aladdin*.

This policy of prior consultation with ethnic groups to avoid unintentional defamations

was subsequently applied to the animated film *Pocahontas*, whereby Walt Disney sought the input of Native American representatives. ADC has come to refer to this policy as the "Disney Principle."

In spite of Walt Disney's promise to consult with Arab Americans on projects dealing with Arab characters or issues, *Father of the Bride, Part II* appears to have fallen between the corporate cracks and has caused the kind of damage that the application of the Disney Principle was meant to prevent," ADC argued.

In voicing their concerns to Walt Disney, ADC chapters, members and supporters are requesting that the video release of *Father of the Bride, Part II* be modified and asking whether the "Disney Principle" still lives. Walt Disney has yet to respond to these concerns. ■

ADC Times

The Arab world goes on-line with Orbit

Orbis's web site, which launched in August 1995 and now offers channel schedules, registered 6,553 "hits" during the first week of February, indicating the growing number of Internet users in the Arab World.

The Internet is rapidly extending its reach throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Since Orbit launched its own web site, a number of Pan-Arabic daily newspapers have gone on-line, while other general sites serving an Arabic audience have also entered the fray.

Orbit viewers, who were the first to turn from analogue to digital satellite television in the Arab world, are now utilizing the

Internet to check Orbit's schedules and highlights.

The Orbit web site also includes corporate news and provides E-mail links to the Orbit channels, the home sites of the other networks Orbit carries, as well as a whole array of relevant links to other sites for curious surfers.

But it is the schedules and the pages of late breaking programming changes that have made the Orbit site the essential companion for Orbit viewing, drawing thousands of hits a week and making Orbit's channel listings as up to date as the network itself. The Orbit Web Page can be found at: <http://www.orbit.net> ■

Bringing books back to life at ICS

The International Community School tried something entirely new to try to encourage their pupils to take a more avid interest in the books around them by organizing a book week. In a world that is becoming more computer literate, wonderful story books are sometimes being left behind, along with imagination and fantasy. A fun packed week brought the story books back to life, with both teachers and parents involved, working together to help the children get the most out of all the activities.

Each class worked on an author of their choice, doing research, book reviews and illustrations. The work was displayed at the end of the week for all to admire. Children were given the opportunity to bring in books they no longer needed and exchange them for coupons which then enabled them to choose new books. Parents came into school to read to the children in different languages including French, German, Italian, Dutch, Arabic, Korean, Spanish, Nepalese and Chinese. A competition with questions taken from some of the children's favourite books was rewarded with certificates of merit, as were book cover and book mark designs. For the amusement of the children, the drama teacher came to school disguised, and the children had to guess who she was portraying. The children themselves



all dressed up as their favorite book characters, for a light hearted end to a busy and exciting week. All the children were invited back to school last Thursday evening, wearing their pyjamas, to be read bedtime stories in a cozy atmosphere quite different to their usual classroom setting. Their teachers, also in night attire, served them hot chocolate and biscuits! Whilst this was going on, the deputy head teacher delighted the parents with both children's and adult literature, and there was also a chance for parents to

exchange books in a book swap. This was a pleasurable way of learning, and all the children I asked said they really enjoyed the book week. ■

OVERHEARD AT TURINO.

TURINO - TURINO & Cheers at Turino "Building a Brand Name!"

Spring is the right season for TURINO. A claim that is not difficult to prove. The winds of change are touching the hearts of people here!

The TURINO culture is leaving its mark on the "TURINO. ISTS"!

* **CHEERS**: Elite Cafe, Turino, a significant entertainment spot for the young, the trendy, and the gourmet!

* **TURINO Club Restaurant** has taken a special turn. A turn to the young heart. TURINO is not particularly addressing the crowd that needs to dine with the crowd! It has added a new flavour of entertainment for those who love to succumb to the ecstasy of fine gourmet food, while listening to the tunes of the superb TURINO Duet. String and Piano...

The Simple Formula to the TURINO brand name: Excellent ingredients & Professional cuisine + courteous service.

CHEERS - UPSTAIRS IS TO OPEN SOON. IT IS UNPARALLELED IS UNPARALLELED ANYWHERE SOUTH OR WEST MEDITERRANEAN. THIS IS NO EXAGGERATION.

The only way to find out is to check it out!

SPRING IS A TURINO SEASON!

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LAKSON



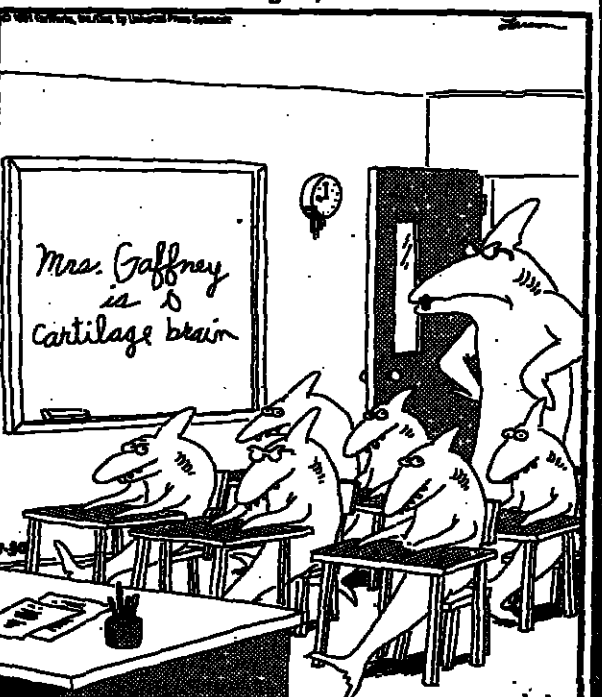
"You know, sometimes I sort of enjoy this herd mentality."



"It's worse than I first suspected, Mr. Binkley—you don't even have a funny bone."



"Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! ... You're in my favorite chair again, Carl."



Mrs. Gaffney is a Cartilage brain

AGENDA

- Films**
- Point Counterpoint 1859-1891, at Darat al Fann, Thursday, 7 March at 5:30 pm.
 - La Mariée était en noir, at the French Culture Center, Monday, 11 March at 8 pm.
 - Tirez sur le pianiste at the French Culture Center, Tuesday, 12 March at 6 pm.
- Exhibitions**
- The works of Nawal Abdullah at the French Culture Center, starting on Tuesday, 12 March at 5:30 pm.
 - The works of the Iraqi artist Himat Muhammad Ali, entitled "Meditation" at Darat al Fann, starting on Thursday, until 28 March.
 - The works of the Saudi artist Faisal al Samra, at Darat al Fann, starting on Tuesday, until 31 March.
 - Paintings and Sculpture by over 50 Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat al Fann

MARCH
SIDE
RY LARSON
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MARCH 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspective on
global issues prepared for

The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



THE WORLD PAPER
WORLD TIMES
TRIBUNE MONDIALE
TIEMPO MUNDIAL
世界時代
INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY

Without transparency, corruption flourishes—but so can prosperity

Growing under cover of darkness

By Andrew Hilton

POISON PILL OR mother's milk? There is a new buzzword in town, but it's one that carries a lot more baggage, intellectual and emotional, than many who use it so casually seem to understand.

On the surface, transparency—defined as clear and even-handed rules and regulations, coupled with clear lines of authority and access to accurate information—has to be an unequivocally good thing. Doesn't it? The "New Openness" at the World Bank itself, espoused by its neophyte president, Jim Wolfensohn, certainly makes a refreshing change from the inexplicable defensiveness of his predecessor, Lew Preston, or the Kremlin-like regime run by Michel Camdessus across the road at the International Monetary Fund.

Wolfensohn has certainly dazzled a normally cynical media, which now finds itself confronted with barrow-loads of statistics, reports and press releases.

And Wolfensohn's efforts to impose transparency on Third World borrowers can't be bad either. Can it? Certainly, the bad old days when the World Bank could ram through funding of the massive iron ore project in Brazil are gone, and good riddance.

But, before we get carried away, let's think the concept through.

Although it is new in the upper echelons of "aid speak," transparency is a concept that has been around. Indeed, it has underpinned the rise of the free-market philosophy on both sides of the Atlantic since the 1970s. The connection is obvious: markets thrive on information, transparency promotes the flow of information, therefore transparency is a good thing because it promotes free markets.

This is broadly true. There is no doubt that political, bureaucratic and

tu—that is thought to have collectively stashed some US\$30 billion in Swiss bank accounts. It is, however, worth noting that corruption in Nigeria flourished at a time when that country boasted at least 15 daily newspapers.

Latin America offers further evidence. It is widely accepted that the debt crisis of the early 1980s occurred because as much as 40 percent of the total foreign debt incurred by governments was immediately "bicycled" abroad, usually to banks in Miami. Arguably, had there been a tradition of open government and honest bureaucracy in countries like Brazil and Argentina—or at least a freer press—the continent would not have wasted a decade, and would not be running so far behind the Asian "tiger" nations.

But wait a minute. Are these "tigers" so open? Are they pure and squeaky-clean?

Just ask the editors of the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Asian Wall Street Journal* or *The Economist* (not to mention that perennial offender, the *Far Eastern Economic Review*) about Singapore's draconian press laws. Free speech, as Wolfensohn might know it, is not considered a high priority by the paternalistic—and largely unaccountable—government in Singapore. Authority is muddy, responsibility diluted and information carefully vetted in this city-state, where it takes a brave person to repeat in print the many rumors that abound of sweetheart deals and out-and-out corruption.

An economic miracle
But nobody seriously doubts that Singapore, with a per capita income higher than the UK, Australia or Italy, is an economic miracle. And it may be a political and social miracle in that it has created a stable, middle-class state out of an apparently irreconcilable ethnic and religious mix. Rather like Switzerland which, perhaps not coincidentally, is also an opaque, paternalistic, authoritarian society in which corruption, insider trading and special interests thrive.

Transparency International (TI), founded by a disillusioned World Banker who ran afoul of Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi and funded largely by German trade unions, publishes an annual list of the most corrupt nations. While not even TI would claim there is a perfect inverse correlation between transparency (however defined) and corruption, there is clearly a presumption that the two are linked—and that corruption is a bad thing. So it is worth taking a look at the top five on the latest list:

► Indonesia, the land of Pertamina, Krakatau Steel and vicious generals. Not much to argue with here, except to note that per capita GNP grew 4.2 percent a year between 1980 and 1993 in spite of a 1.7 percent annual growth in the population. During the same time the death rate fell by more than half, so somebody, somewhere, must be doing something right.

► China. Nice to see communists near the top, though this distinction doesn't seem to have deterred the international investment community. According to the latest figures, China is getting 38 percent of all foreign direct investment in developing countries. Its annual growth rate of 8.2 percent between 1980 and 1993 ties for top place with South Korea, another nightmare of bureaucratic opacity and

flat-out corruption.

► Pakistan. Here I bow to TI. Corruption is so pervasive that even World Bank officials have been implicated. But for all its sins, it did turn in a reasonable 3.1 percent growth rate in its per capita GDP.

► Venezuela, which is, more or less, free. By Latin American standards, Venezuela is a model of reasonably representative democracy with an active two-party political system, a vigorous press and an educated middle class. Of course, its per capita GDP has fallen over the last decade, but that's oil for you: a fickle mistress.

► Brazil, the perennial country of tomorrow. There ought to be no surprise that it ranks in the top five for corruption, but corruption in Brazil reflects social and political anarchy, not opacity. The average Brazilian is knee-deep in statistics: 20 years of indexing every investment has created a generation more sophisticated about markets and interest rates than practically anywhere in the world.

Lower down TI's list, the same muddled picture emerges.

The Philippines is an economic basket case but, post-Marcos, it is certainly not a closed society. India, the biggest genuine democracy in the world, is the new darling of the international investment community. It may be stifled by its bureaucracy, but nobody could accuse the Indians of lacking rules and regulations. Then

► DARKNESS PAGE 2

transparency. The idea of making government and business dealings clearer and more open appeals to many, who believe that corruption will wither in this new environment. But many closed, unaccountable societies have been doing well economically, and their leaders believe that will be this prosperity that withers under the light of greater transparency

South Africa's new openness in danger of being squandered

Old press clouds new issues

Benjamin Pogrand

THE HEIGHT of the bad old days in South Africa—and it's astonishing to remember that the era ended a mere two years ago—the government used words to bamboozle and deceive. The grandly styled Department of Community Development was in fact the government department

which ruthlessly uprooted families and communities and ordered them to move to their "correct" racial area. The extension of University Education Act in fact excluded blacks from the "white" universities. The Coordination of Documents (Abolition of Passes) Act in fact extended the "pass" which every black person had to carry as a pain of instant arrest.

The misuse of words was a cover for domination by the white minority. A vast web of laws maintained this power, and then served to hide the extent of it by the suppression of information. Thus the Defence Act prohibited publication, without permission, of details about the army and its weapons; the actions of policemen and prison wardens were concealed; it was a criminal offense to disclose any details about oil supplies or atomic energy. And so on, through every look and cranny of society.

It has all gone. The country is wide open and there is fierce and popular belief that this is the way it must be. A Bill of Rights enshrines personal rights and a Constitutional Court is there for anyone to appeal to.

South Africa is already markedly different from other countries which have emerged from tyranny, only to retain oppressive laws from the past and use them to get rid of opposition under the fig leaf of "national security." In South Africa's case the old laws have been dumped and the Government of National Unity shows no sign of wanting to resuscitate them—not even with the leading partner, the African National Congress, by far in the majority with close to two-thirds of electoral support. Indeed, it's the strong presence of the ANC which ensures that there is no turning back of the clock.

The new South Africa is also evident in parliament's internal committee structure. The structure is in place but is still

evolving as the MPs who constitute the committees explore their possible jurisdiction and seek to carve out a role as inquisitors of official policy.

There are virtually no limits, apart from defamation—and in some instances, pornography—on the freedom to ask, to probe and to criticize. The real problem is how to exercise it.

That is more clearly seen in the media than anywhere else. The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), for decades the propaganda tool of the Afrikaner Nationalists, has been revamped. Many of the old guard

papers; and Nasionale Pers owns the Afrikaans-language newspapers.

Not only do they have a headlock on the press but all three companies are run by whites, the vast majority of editors are whites and so too are most of the journalists. Even more, most white journalists had little to do with blacks in the bad old days and only too often their current selection and handling of news reveals that they haven't yet caught up with the transition to democracy. The paucity of black journalists is due to past neglect of recruiting and training by management, plus the lure these days of high salaries in the commercial world for blacks with



Blinded by the light: South Africa's new transparency doesn't appeal to everyone

have gone, but replacing all of them and instilling standards of fairness and balance—and critical attitudes—cannot be done overnight.

Newspapers are a troubled area. It starts with the fact that three companies monopolize the press. The Independent group entered the South African market two years ago and owns most of the daily newspapers; Times Media Limited owns most of the other English-language news-

education and talent. In addition, the press—with the sole exception of the *Weekly Mail* newspaper—long ago lost what investigative talent and courage it possessed.

The unhappy conclusion is that when it comes to the scrutiny to which democratic government should be subjected, much of the press is incapable of applying the freedom which it enjoys

► OLD PRESS PAGE 2

Within democracies, transparency is not so immediately associated with economic success. After all, no one would seriously argue that Japan is more transparent than the US

Jordan's priority:

An open desire for economic security

By Marwan Asmar

IN JORDAN, the idea of transparency has come to permeate state and society. A favorite word of Crown Prince Hassan, transparency—the way he uses it—describes the greater openness, plurality and maturity of Jordanian society.

A transparent political system is one where there is clear demarcation between the executive, legislative and judicial authorities. In the present 80-seat parliament there are about 15 Islamic deputies and five nationalists, pan-Arabs and leftists. A thorn in the government's side on many issues, the opposition shows that pluralism is digging roots in Jordanian politics.

The fact that there is an opposition, no matter how small, also shows that the government is willing to tolerate an alternative point of view. While the opposition may deny the existence of transparency and say that the government always has its own way, the different political colorings of deputies point to the fact there is diverse opinion—and that it is permitted to be expressed.

The lively debates in the lower house of parliament testify to that. The confidence vote in the former Majali government of 1993, the subsequent debates on the budget, and the debate on the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty in 1994 point to transparency and dynamism in political life.

However, normalization with Israel is likely to mean great challenges regarding transparency in Jordan. How the government will implement new policies while maintaining openness and tolerance remains a question. The

► OPEN DESIRE PAGE 2

The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 9-15 March



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ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

2:00—Moonies
2:30—Web Kid
3:00—Harry And The Hendersons
3:25—Blue Heelers
4:00—Okavango
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Major Dad
8:00—The Discover of the 7th Continent
9:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—A Fine Romance
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *The Black Candle*, starring: Samantha Bond & Nathaniel Parker
12:00—Mancuso FBI

SUNDAY

2:00—The Flintstones
2:30—Disney's Aladdin
3:00—Mac and Moley
3:30—Peak Practice
4:00—Okavango
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Are You Being Served
8:00—Cinema, Cinema...
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Women of the World
9:30—Murphy Brown
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Counterstrike
11:15—The American Chart Show
12:00—Forever Green

MONDAY

2:00—Bonkers
2:30—Richie Rich
3:00—Playabout
3:15—Justin Loosie
3:40—Animals of the Mediterranean

4:10—Okavango
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—McHale's Navy
8:00—Rhythms That Speak
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Temples of the Gods
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Perfect Scoundrels
11:10—Taurus Rising
12:00—Ellen

TUESDAY

2:00—Captain Planet
2:30—Iris-The Happy Professor
2:45—Johnny Quest
3:05—Bob Morrison
3:30—Scientific Eye
4:10—Okavango
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—You Bet Your Life
8:00—Clive Anderson
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Harry
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—McCloud
12:00—Feature Film: *Night of the Comet*, starring: Robert Beltran & Catherine Mary Stewart

WEDNESDAY

2:00—The Flintstones
2:30—Speed Racer
3:00—Dinosaur
3:30—Alex Mac
4:00—Bill world
4:15—Okavango
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headline
7:35—Evening Shade
8:00—Oriental Rugs
8:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
9:10—Horizon
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Airwolf
11:20—The Silk Road



Samantha Bond, *The Black Candle*, Saturday at 10:25

12:30—Second Thoughts

THURSDAY

1:00—Fireman Sam
1:10—Disney's Aladdin
1:30—The Legends of Treasure Island
2:00—My Secret Identity
2:15—NBA
3:15—The New Leave It to Beaver
3:40—Hall Hay School
4:30—Gillette World Sport
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—The Album Show
9:10—Pride and Prejudice

10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Money, Power, Murder*
12:00—Matlock

FRIDAY

1:00—Pebbles and Bam Bam Show
1:30—Iris-The Happy Professor
1:35—See How They Grow
1:45—Bush School
2:00—Spiderman
3:30—Goldrush in Alaska
4:30—Give Us a Clue
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines

7:35—Short Story Cinema
8:00—Sea Quest
8:25—America's Funniest People
9:10—Widows
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Second Chance
11:45—Classic Movie: *Come September*, starring: Rock Hudson

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Cupido
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
6:00—Série
Château Vallon
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Faut pas rêver
«Turkmenistan»

DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Cupido
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
6:00—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
«Foot à l'ère»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Cupido
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
6:00—Magazine
C'est pas sorcier
6:20—Divertissement

L'école des fans
«Gilbert Beaud»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
Cupido
5:30—Série
Extrême limite
6:00—Magazine
Savoir plus santé
«Hépatite C: qui est contaminé?»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuaia

MERCREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Série
Haute tension
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

JEUDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Divertissement
Tarata
«Les gipsy kings»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Archimède

VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Sophie et Virginie
5:30—Téléfilm
«Le sang du chasseur»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Cinema

"BUSHWHACKED" (Fox,): Daniel Stern ("City Slickers") doubles as both executive producer and star of this comedy, in which he plays a delivery man set up as the fall guy for the money-laundering activities of some underworld types. His flight from the law takes him into the woods, where he becomes the impromptu leader of a group of young campers ... with much peril awaiting him. ** (PG-13: P, V)

"HOW I MET MY HUSBAND: RED SHOE DIARIES 6" (Republic,): Another feature compiled from the anthology series shown on pay-cable's Showtime, this Zalman King-produced effort again features David Duchovny ("The X-Files") as Jake, the fellow who solicits stories of love gone wrong from those who are willing to respond. Other performers include John Enos ("Melrose Place") and Charlotte Lewis. ** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "WATERWORLD" (MCA/Universal): One of last year's most-discussed movies — largely because of its budget — this adventure of a world mostly submerged under water casts Kevin Costner as the Mariner, a hero protecting a youngster (Tina Majorino) believed by a villain (Dennis Hopper) to hold the key to untold riches. Jeanne Tripplehorn and Michael Jeter ("Evening Shade") also appear. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"JADE" (Paramount,): A lot of veteran behind-the-scenes talents — including producer Robert Evans ("Chinatown"), director William Friedkin ("The French Connection") and writer Joe Eszterhas ("Showgirls") — worked on this steamy melodrama, casting Linda Fiorentino ("The Last Seduction") as a woman whose wiles pit two lawyers (David Caruso, Chazz Palminteri) against each other. ** (R: AS, P, V)

"THE COURTNEY" (Republic,): Andrew McCarthy ("Weekend Update") stars in this suspense-drama — first presented on Showtime — as an architect newly relocated from Manhattan to Southern California, where he becomes involved in the probe of a pizza-deliverer's murder. Suspects are plentiful, and they include the woman (Madchen Amick) to whom the newcomer has taken a shine. ** (R: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "DANGEROUS MINDS" (Hollywood, Feb. 13): Michelle Pfeiffer stars in the box-office hit about a Marine veteran who becomes a teacher of inner-city youths. (R)

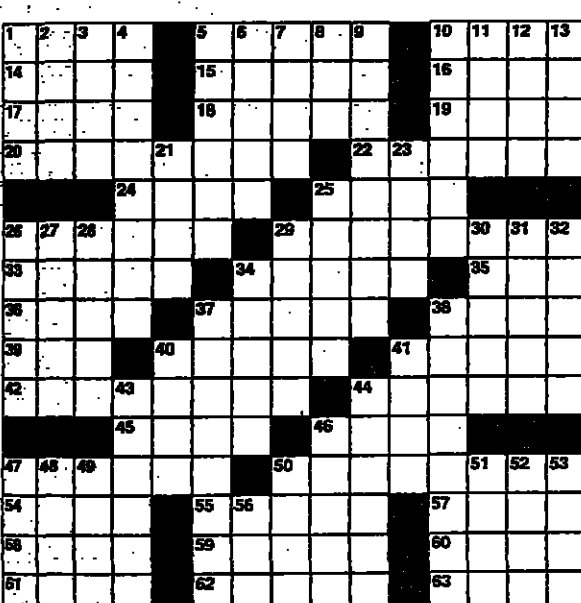
"VIRTUOSITY" (Paramount, Feb. 13): Denzel Washington plays an ex-policeman of the near future assigned to hunt down a vicious, computer-generated felon. (R)

"COPYCAT" (Warner, Feb. 20): Sigourney Weaver and Holly Hunter play somewhat unlikely partners in tracking a killer who emulates murderers of the past. (R)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence, GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1. Sheriff
5. Write a
10. Cygnus
14. Dub
15. Term in
16. Vagrant
17. Noteworthy
18. Bumping
19. Part in a
20. Sailing
21. Stage
22. Whispers
24. Shattering
25. Adhesive
26. Gesture of
27. Something
28. Material
34. Fury
35. Yoko

DOWN
2. Chaplain
3. Remains
7. Table part
8. Martin
9. Cotton fabric
10. Brief story
11. Dyed
12. Stockings
13. Covered
14. Upholstered
15. Syrup
16. Deprivation
17. Certain
18. Swearword
19. Of the kind
20. Wine city
21. La - opera
22. House
23. Foreigner
24. Simon or
25. Armstrong
26. Leavening
27. Drama

30. Vault
31. Old womanish
32. Carried
33. Correspond
34. List of words
35. Tavern of a
36. Kind of a
37. Reputation
38. Money in
39. Italy
40. Tool for
41. Ability
42. Godunov

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: An older person may try to tell you what to do! Even worse, you may have to do it!

Aries (March 21-April 19). Play early. Later you'll be immersed in work up to your nostrils. Ask out a person who can always find something to argue with you about.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). An attractive friend needs more of your personal attention, at a private, undisclosed, location. Make it happen, if appropriate.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Something you've learned recently could come in handy. There could be a confrontation at home. Changes will have to be put into effect.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A purchase could be more expensive than you figured. Stay home and catch up on your work. Schedule your dates. You might even decide to make a big commitment.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be brilliant. Figure out how much money you have, and where you're going to get more! Stay home and work on household projects.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Finish a tough assignment for a horrible person. Once that's done, you'll feel much better. It also helps that the moon is in your sign.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You could encounter a bureaucratic nightmare. Don't give up, you need to get it straightened out.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may be able to ditch an early morning meeting. The boss may be so full of herself, she might not even notice.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). An early morning bike ride would be a good way to start the week. After that, you'll have to toe the line.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't waste your money, or anybody else's. Practice your foreign language skills on a native.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An argument could lead to a better solution. Figure out how much you owe and to whom. You may need this information soon.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Your week could open with a horrid assignment. Get there on time anyway you'll be in even more trouble if you miss it.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your work could be difficult this year, but lead to a lasting partnership. You have the great ideas.

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Bridge

A Two-Way Shot
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 4

♥ 7 3

♦ 8 5 4 2

♣ J 9 7 4 3

WEST

♠ 9 7

♥ Q J 10 8 4

♦ 9 6

♣ A 10 8 6

EAST

♠ J 10 8 5 3

♥ 9 6 5 2

♦ A 7 3

♣ Q

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 2

♥ A K

♦ K Q J 10

♣ K 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

3NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

When technique alone may not help, fall back on psychology. That can be an equally potent weapon, as this hand from a team game testifies.

At both tables South played three no trump, after essentially identical auctions. As little as the jack of spades with North would virtually have guaranteed nine tricks. At both tables West led the queen of hearts, and dummy brought little cheer.

At one table declarer went down peacefully. After winning the king of hearts at trick one, declarer led the king of diamonds. East grabbed the ace and reverted to hearts, forcing out declarer's remaining stopper in the suit. Declarer had only eight tricks, and the defenders took the rest for a one-trick set.

At the other table, South did far better. Instead of meekly conceding defeat, declarer boldly led the king of clubs at trick two! West, looking at dummy's five clubs headed by the jack, made the expert play of allowing the king of clubs to hold in an effort to shut out dummy's suit. That is likely to happen anytime the club honors are split and either defender holds the ace guarded twice. With a club trick in the bank, declarer abandoned clubs in favor of diamonds and claimed nine tricks.

As the cards lie, declarer would have made nine tricks even if West won the ace. When the queen drops the club position becomes marked, and repeated finesse allows declarer to come to nine tricks with three spades, two hearts and four clubs. Stealing a club trick, however, would have been far more satisfying than finding the only distribution that delivers the contract legitimately!

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WIN YOUR ALPHABET MEDAL. TRAVEL THROUGH THIS MAZE FROM A TO Z. (IN THE CORRECT ORDER)



Words of Wisdom

There's one thing to be said for staying busy. It forces you to focus time and energy on the most important tasks at hand.

Common sense must be acquired rather than bestowed.

It's easier to die from worry than from overwork.

Those quick to promise are often the ones quickest to forget.

Condemnation is better than false praise.

Poverty is only appealing to those who no longer feel it.

Living well makes it easier to ignore the follies of others.

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FBII, celebrates 25th anniversary via the Jordanian Technical Est.

AMMAN (Star)—FBII is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. FBII is one of the largest manufacturers in the world of burglar alarm systems. It sells products in over 55 countries. FBII, is part of the pitway group which is a Fortune 500 company in the USA. Pitway's sales reached almost \$1 Billion in 1995 and about \$600 million from their Fire Security & Safety Divisions.

"I will work very closely with the staff of the Jordanian Technical Est., (JTE) in the hope of making FBII products the most popular brand of residential and commercial alarm systems in Jordan." Mr. Matthew Schweiger, the International Sales Manager for FBII told *The Star* from the U.S.

FBII product training of JTE's technical staff was already conducted at their New York facilities. Now JTE will be able to professionally train dealers in FBII products.

Customers like to use what they feel most comfortable with and what they know how to use. Thus, "it is my goal to provide JTE with a variety of training material that can be easily translated into Arabic or any local language," Mr. Schweiger.

The JTE, became agents for the FBII in Jordan since early this year. "We are willing to reach the Jordanian consumer, and work hard to protect his property from theft," Mr. Eyhab Hifawi, the manager of the Security and Protection Section at the JTE told *The Star*. He stressed the importance of alarm systems and the need of protecting devices.

"Families will sleep safely knowing that the security systems are on guard, and working around the clock to protect their properties," said Mr. Hifawi. "The home is literally the investment of a lifetime. An alarm system is also a protection against fire," he added.

"We can exceed our customers' expectations with the most extensive line of sophisticated and easy-to-use electronic security systems," Mr. Hifawi added.

"Sophisticated buyers are interested in advanced features when it comes to their security. They also want systems that are easy to use, easy enough so that their children will be able to operate them," he pointed out.

"They will want systems that can be tailored to their active life styles so they won't be encumbered by difficult operating procedures," Mr. Hifawi concluded.

The world of cloths at Benetton

● BENETTON CO. is

considered one of the largest clothing companies in the world. It started in Italy in 1965 by the Benetton family, and now has more than seven thousand shops worldwide including Jordan.

"Benetton is a life style." It is a combination of quality, elegance, simplicity, and colourful casual fashion, for adults, kids and also for infants (known as benetton Zero Tondo).

"Satisfaction is our target," said Mr. Ahmad Al Mashal the exclusive agent of Benetton in Jordan. He added that Benetton always pays attention to its customer's desire and satisfaction. Ahmad Mashal Co. "Sanabel" the agent, imports annually up to date collection for the 4 seasons S/S and A/W, from Italy since 1982.

Nowadays, Sanabel also imports from Benetton? Egypt to meet all customers demand. The Egyptian production is operating with same quality and finishing under the supervision of Italian experts but with less cost and lower prices.

This kind of arrangement between "Benetton" and the agent in Jordan helps a large sector of the Jordanian society to have access to Benetton style.

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

La mort d'une femme de lettres

C'est ainsi qu'elle aimait se définir, en tant que «femme de lettres». Marguerite Duras est décédée dimanche à Paris à l'âge de 81 ans. Couronnée par la plus grande récompense française de littérature, le prix Goncourt, en 1984 pour son roman «L'Amant», Marguerite Duras laisse derrière elle une importante œuvre littéraire, théâtrale et cinématographique. Née près de Saïghon, sa jeunesse en Asie va lui inspirer ses premiers romans, tels que «Un barrage contre le Pacifique».

Depuis 1959, elle écrivait pour le cinéma des adaptations de ses œuvres, comme «Hiroshima mon amour» ou «Une aussi longue absence». Elle a aussi réalisé plusieurs films, dont «Indian Song» et «Camion».

Jean-Jacques Annaud lui avait récemment rendu hommage en adaptant à l'écran «L'Amant».



Les droits de l'Homme malmenés en Jordanie

Selon la section jordanienne de l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme, la situation dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme s'est détériorée en Jordanie en 1995.

Un rapport publié par l'OADH fait état d'une multiplication des violations officielles et semi-officielles des droits de l'Homme en Jordanie. De nombreux faits traduisent un «accroissement de l'usage de la violence et de la torture».

La section jordanienne de l'OADH a demandé au gouvernement M. Kabarti de mettre fin à ces violations, évoquant, dans le contraire, la création d'une commission d'enquête arabe au respect des droits de l'Homme en Jordanie.

L'OADH est une organisation non-gouvernementale ayant pour but d'observer le respect des droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe.

SELON

ION

Si le nouveau

gouvernement souhaite sincèrement retrouver la confiance des citoyens, il existe un bon moyen pour lui de faire preuve de sa détermination: c'est l'affaire de l'usine polluante de Fuhès.

Dans ce ravissant coin du pays, à 20 kilomètres d'Amman, se trouve une petite ville montagneuse aux terres fertiles, bien cultivées par des paysans. La décision du roi d'habiter là-bas témoigne du charme du coin. La famille royale ayant séjourné pendant 25 ans sur l'une des collines qui surplombent l'entrée de la ville.

En 1951, le gouvernement a décidé d'installer à Fuhès une importante usine de ciment, à la grande joie des habitants qui trouvaient ainsi un travail proche et sûr.

Petit à petit, on a commencé à se rendre compte que les oliviers et les vignes perdaient de leur vigueur, que les toits des maisons se couvraient d'une épaisse poussière. Les habitants ont appris avec une maudite fureur que cette maudite fumée qui s'échappait des fours pouvait provoquer les pires maux pour les poumons et la santé, allant de l'asthme au cancer en passant par l'emphysème.

La pollution est devenue le souci majeur des habitants, qui, en citoyens exemplaires, se sont tournés vers les différents gouvernements.

Mais pendant vingt ans, ils n'ont rencontré qu'indifférence et formules de politesse. Les enfants des victimes ont créé une association de lutte contre la pollution qui a gagné peu à peu de nombreux sympathisants. Mais toujours pas assez pour que la direction de l'usine cède à leurs revendications et accepte d'installer un système de filtres préconisé par des experts allemands.

Pour sa défense, le directeur faisait en effet valoir qu'il ne disposait pas des 52 millions de dinars nécessaires à cette opération.

Il a fallu attendre mars 1993 pour que le conseil des ministres prenne la décision d'ajouter une taxe supplémentaire de 5 dinars par tonne de ciment afin de financer l'opération sur trois ans. Une fois réunie, la somme nécessaire à cet investissement a été déposée sur un compte de l'usine, au grand dam des habitants qui ne voyaient toujours pas les promesses de l'ancien premier ministre Zeid Ben Shaker se concrétiser.

Le roi Hussein en personne est intervenu dans cette affaire. Assez énervé il a déclaré devant le parlement en février 1994 qu'il était temps de rendre justice aux habitants de Fuhès, ajoutant que ses enfants étaient eux-mêmes pratiquement tous asthmatiques.

Une chose tout de même est surprenante dans cette histoire. Ce directeur borné qui refuse d'écouter les différentes voix de la sagesse, qui ne voit et ne respire dans son bureau que la fumée de ses havanes, qui n'aura pas besoin d'offrir à ses enfants pour Noël un flacon de ventoline et une bouteille d'oxygène, est nommé par le gouvernement. Que la Jordanie est compliquée!

Suhail Al Sweis

Journées internationales des femmes

«De nombreux défis à relever»

Le 8 mars est une date importante que fêtent chaque année toutes les femmes dans le monde entier pour rappeler leurs revendications.

Asma Khader, présidente de l'Union des femmes jordaniennes, dresse un bilan de la condition de la femme dans ce pays.

Comme toutes les femmes du monde, les Jordaniennes aspirent à bénéficier d'un certain nombre de droits. Quels objectifs leur reste-t-il à atteindre?

La femme jordanienne n'a pas arrêté de militer pour ses droits depuis la naissance du royaume, dans le but d'obtenir l'égalité et la liberté des femmes. Je pense que, comme ce pays a connu très tôt des mouvements de revendications féministes, cela a obligé la société à reconnaître à la femme des droits politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels. Elles ont fini par obtenir gain de cause dans certains domaines, tels que l'égalité juridique ou le droit de voter ou de se faire élire.

Le militantisme a ouvert beaucoup de portes aux femmes, notamment dans le domaine du travail. Cela a permis à certaines d'atteindre des postes très importants au sein des pouvoirs exécutif ou législatif. Aujourd'hui, les femmes veulent pouvoir être juges, car elles n'ont jusqu'à présent obtenu aucun poste au sein du pouvoir judiciaire.

Pourquoi?

S'il n'y a pas d'obstacle juridique à ces nominations, il existe un nombre restreint de femmes en Jordanie capables

d'assumer de telles fonctions. La société arabe a une certaine mentalité.

Quels sont les grands défis à relever?

Notre rôle est que la femme n'ait pas à attendre jusqu'à présent qu'on lui donne le droit de travailler. Elle doit pouvoir travailler librement, sans avoir à attendre qu'on lui donne le droit de travailler. Elle doit pouvoir travailler librement, sans avoir à attendre qu'on lui donne le droit de travailler.

Par ailleurs, elle ne peut pas donner la nationalité à ses enfants ou à son mari si celui-ci est étranger. Elle ne peut pas non plus élire son mari ou son père. C'est une situation qui est très difficile à accepter.

Une autre difficulté, c'est la violence des hommes envers les femmes. Les hommes ont le droit de battre leur femme, ce qui est une violation des droits de l'Homme. Nous avons organisé des conférences et des congrès, publié des livres et des brochures, mais rien n'a changé.

Plus généralement, dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme, nous avons beaucoup de défis à relever. Nous avons organisé des conférences et des congrès, publié des livres et des brochures, mais rien n'a changé.



Asma Khader, présidente de l'Union des femmes jordaniennes.

Qu'est-ce que l'Union des femmes jordaniennes (UJF) a apporté à la femme dans ce pays?

L'UJF ne cesse de lutter pour l'égalité des droits. Elle s'occupe beaucoup de formation. Des centaines d'étudiantes ont obtenu leurs diplômes à l'UJF, ce qui leur a permis de les passer.

Notre rôle est aussi de sensibiliser les femmes et de leur faire prendre conscience de leurs droits. Nous avons organisé des conférences et des congrès, publié des livres et des brochures, mais rien n'a changé.

problème des enfants handicapés et leur consacrer des programmes spéciaux.

Comment jugez-vous la situation de la femme jordanienne par rapport aux pays arabes voisins?

Je pense qu'elle est meilleure que celle des autres femmes arabes. Mais certaines femmes arabes ont atteint des buts plus importants que les nôtres. Je citerai la femme tunisienne en ce qui concerne les droits juridiques et la femme saoudienne pour les questions de salaire.

C'est ce que nous avons des points communs et que nous devons coordonner nos efforts. Lors de notre dernier congrès, nous avons vivement dénoncé la violence et les brutalités dont sont victimes les femmes algériennes.

Quel est votre programme pour la journée internationale du 8 mars?

Nos festivités s'étalent plutôt sur tout le mois. Nous organisons en mars plusieurs conférences sur les femmes dans tout le pays.

Plusieurs expositions auront aussi lieu, et le 21 mars, nous fêterons les mamans.

Propos recueillis par Soûad Retül-Ensaïmer

Journée internationale de la femme

Kollwitz, la voix authentique de la femme

Sculptrice et graveuse allemande, Käthe Kollwitz a vu sa vie ravagée par les deux guerres mondiales. Militante des droits de l'Homme, elle a notamment choisi de dénoncer dans son œuvre les injustices sociales et la pauvreté.

Dans sa jeunesse, Käthe Kollwitz a appris à devenir aussi stoïque que sa mère, qui a perdu plusieurs enfants sans parvenir à pleurer, et sérieuse et sincère comme son grand-père, dirigeant religieux et socialiste. Elle a rejoint l'Académie allemande de Kassel. Käthe rencontre pour la première fois la discrimination institutionnelle. Elle est femme, elle n'est admise qu'à l'école d'élève particulière du maître Ernst Nolde.

À Berlin, elle rejoint une association de femmes qui est une annexe de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts. Elle devient membre de l'Art du dessin, de la gravure et de la sculpture.

Arrivée à Munich, elle rencontre l'atmosphère philosophique et artistique avant-gardiste qui ressemble beaucoup à celle de Paris au début du siècle. L'atmosphère y est pleine d'idées, de listes et anti-matrimoniale. Elle rencontre August Bebel, chef du Parti social-démocrate allemand, et demandait non seulement l'égalité entre hommes et femmes mais aussi l'élimination des barrières qui font qu'un individu dépend de l'autre. En 1904, elle se rend à Paris où elle apprend le travail du bronze.

Première femme élue à l'Académie des arts de Prusse en 1919, Käthe découvre Goethe, Schiller, Lessing et Heine. Le critique Julius Elias fait l'éloge de son talent, soulignant sa capacité à percevoir la nature telle quelle, intensément, en utilisant des lignes claires et bien formées. «Elle est attirée par des lumières peu communes et des tons très profonds. Elle possède une intensité spirituelle qu'elle transmet à tous les personnages qu'elle dessine, nous faisant part de leurs souffrances ou de leurs joies».

Elle dessine des séries thématiques comme «Les tisserands», où elle montre l'état de pauvreté du tisserand qui n'est payé qu'à la présentation de son œuvre achevée. Entretemps, l'enfant du tisserand meurt de faim («La mort»). Les tisserands décident de venger cet enfant («La conspiration»). Ils attaquent la maison du propriétaire («La marche des tisserands»). «L'attaque». Leur lutte est un échec, et elle ne débouche que sur quelques cadavres de plus («La fin»).

Käthe étudie la Révolution française et les œuvres de

«La mort» de Käthe Kollwitz. Elle a vu sa vie ravagée par les deux guerres mondiales. Militante des droits de l'Homme, elle a notamment choisi de dénoncer dans son œuvre les injustices sociales et la pauvreté.

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La mort d'un tisserand, œuvre de Käthe Kollwitz.

Gaza

Seules les bombes se font entendre

Les voix en faveur de la paix n'ont pas réussi à se faire entendre lundi à Gaza, couvertes par le bruit de l'attentat de Tel-Aviv. Et aujourd'hui, les habitants ont peur pour le processus de paix.

C'est une catastrophe

Un sentiment d'inquiétude règne aujourd'hui parmi les habitants de Gaza qui craignent de vivre une intervention directe des forces israéliennes dans les territoires palestiniens autonomes.

Les déclarations du Premier ministre Shimon Peres au lendemain des quatre attentats qui ont frappé Jérusalem et Tel-Aviv laissent en effet un large champ d'action aux chefs de renseignements généraux chargés de «frapper le terrorisme palestinien partout».

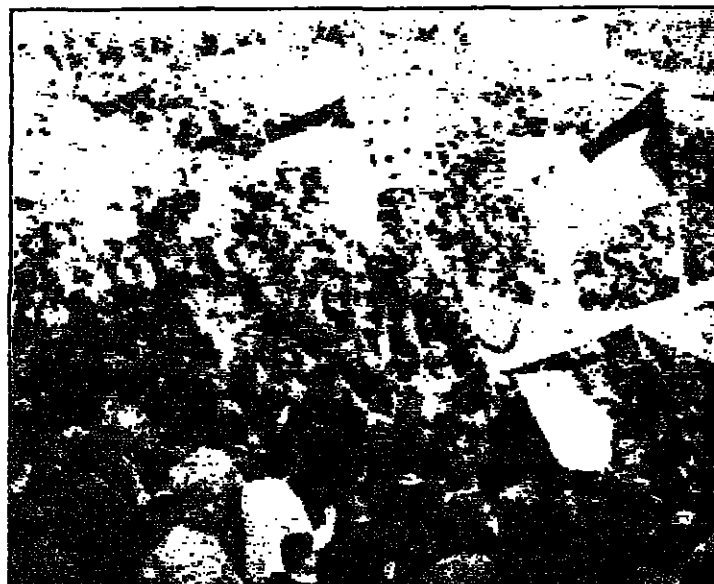
Cette escalade dangereuse intervient à l'approche de trois échéances importantes. Tout d'abord, la tenue du premier conseil palestinien prévue aujourd'hui et la formation du

gouvernement palestinien qui doit être composé de membres du conseil national palestinien.

Ensuite, les négociations israélo-palestiniennes sur des sujets aussi brûlants que le sort de Jérusalem ou le retour des réfugiés. Et enfin, les élections générales israéliennes qui doivent avoir lieu à la fin du mois de mai.

Pour certains responsables palestiniens, cette vague d'attentats n'est possible que grâce à une coordination entre des éléments extrémistes israéliens et palestiniens. Ces deux groupes ont en effet un intérêt vital à saboter le processus de paix.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi



La manifestation de lundi à Gaza était la première du genre organisée dans la région après un attentat anti-israélien. Elle a rassemblé des étudiants, des lycéens et des fonctionnaires.

Trois échéances importantes

Plus que jamais, l'existence d'une première autonomie palestinienne est menacée par un processus de

Economie

La Jordanie a soif d'eau et d'argent

Tout comme la pluie cet hiver, les investissements venant de l'étranger se font attendre en Jordanie.

Le mois de février a été un mois tranquille pour l'économie jordanienne.

Le Ramadan et l'Aïd el Fitr, qui sont tombés cette année le même jour, entraînent toujours un certain ralentissement commercial. Mis à part les restaurants, qui connaissent une grande activité une fois la nuit tombée, les entreprises jordaniennes ne travaillent plus beaucoup.

La bourse a en fait fait figure d'exception: en comparaison avec janvier, les ventes d'actions ont augmenté de 16,3%. Un volume plus important pour une légère hausse de l'indice du marché financier d'Amman qui est passé de 154,40 points à 154,89, soit 0,32% d'augmentation. Cette hausse est essentiellement due aux activités bancaires, comme le montre le tableau ci-contre.

Elle reflète une fois de plus le manque d'intérêt des investisseurs étrangers pour la Jordanie.

Février était en fait un mois sec pour la Jordanie à plusieurs égards. Les chutes de pluie, et de neige sur les hauteurs, ont été faibles en comparaison avec les années précédentes. A la limite de plusieurs régions désertiques à l'est et au sud de son territoire, la Jordanie connaît une situation hydrologique précaire, voire dangereuse. Cet hiver, les Jordanien ont soif, qu'il s'agisse des habitants ou de l'industrie. L'eau est en effet très importante pour l'économie, et sans pluie, les réservoirs restent à moitié vides. Et malheureusement, la possibilité de dessaler l'eau de mer n'est pas, pour le moment, une alternative sérieuse.

De nombreux secteurs de l'économie jordanienne ont eux aussi soif, soit d'investissements internationaux, ou de fonds jordaniens déposés à

l'étranger. L'économie locale est pauvre et elle a besoin de ce soutien financier.

Il ne s'agit pas bien sûr d'avoir recours massivement à l'aide internationale. Cette époque de «récession assistée» est résolue. L'économie jordanienne a besoin d'investissements privés de l'étranger.

Comme la pluie pour l'agriculture, ces investissements conditionnent la croissance économique. Jusqu'à

présent, le contexte politique hésitant encore entre l'après-guerre et la paix n'offre pas beaucoup de garanties. Et pour cause.

Espérons que cet été ne se passe pas une période trop sèche pour la Jordanie. Sans oublier nos voisins qui ont eux aussi soif, dans tous les sens du terme.

Riad el Khouri

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C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Suite du cycle François Truffaut (8 films et 2 vidéos) au Centre culturel français et à la fondation Shoman:

Cinéma

«La Mariée était en noir» le 11/03 à 20h00 au CCF.
«Tirez sur le pianiste» le 12/03 à 18h30 à la fondation Shoman.

Peinture

Du 12/03 au 02/04, exposition au CCF des œuvres de Nawal Abdullah, artiste apparentée au mouvement de l'abstraction lyrique.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	899238
British Council	6361478	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993	Sports Clubs	
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Al Hussein Sports Club	667181/5
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Orthodox Club	810491
Haye Arts Centre	665195	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Y.W.M.A.	664251	Royal Chess Club	673713
Dar al Funun	643252	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Alia Art Gallery	639303	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Baladna Art Gallery	657132	Amman Mun. Library	636111
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Nabli & Hisham's Theatre	625155	R.S.C.N.	837931/837937

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Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	642311
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Australian	673246/7	Aeroflot	641510
Austrian	644635	Air Canada	630879
Bahraini	664148/9	Air France	666053/667824
Brazilian	642183	Air India	688301/2
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Cyprus Honorary Cons	677559	Arab Wings	894484
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Danish Consulate Gen	603703	Balkan Airlines	665909
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676	British Midland	694802
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Greek	671331/2	China Airlines	636232
Hungarian	815614	Cyprus Airways	667028
Icelandic Consulate	698851	Delta Air Lines	643661
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Indonesian	828911	Emirates Airlines	643341
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Kuwaiti	675135/8	Iran Air	622826
Libyan	693101/3	Japan Air Lines	630879
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Al Qar'eh Al Aly (Automatic Reader) Version
2.0 from Sakhr Software:

Arabic OCR that works

OPTICAL CHARACTER Recognition (OCR) is the most advanced form of technology in use today to build and sustain databases of information. This is mainly due to the many benefits that the application of OCR provides, in terms of saving time and effort, that would be otherwise spent on manual data-entry practices. Additionally, using OCR means cutting down on expenses of appointing staff to perform data entry, and prevents the resulting injuries and physical disorders related to strenuous manual data entry.

Arabic OCR basically offers the ability to enter an unlimited number of Arabic text documents into a computer system in a very short time, through the use of a scanner. Once entered, users can manipulate this text in any word processing application just as if it were entered using a keyboard.

The introduction of the first release of Al Qar'eh Al Aly came as part of Sakhr's ongoing commitment and efforts to develop Arabic text data basing technologies. Al Qar'eh Al Aly was the Arabic OCR product that put an end to the various, different problems that used to face Arabic information systems professionals.

Providing full functionality under Sakhr Arabic Windows, Al Qar'eh Al Aly offers much flexibility and ease of use which enables communication with different Latin applications, whether Arabized or not. It also supports scanners that work with KOFAX and TWAIN protocols.

Al Qar'eh Al Aly is a unique product in its ability to recognize different fonts, enabling it to read, and therefore recognize, all the types of Arabic fonts is use. In addition, once the program successfully recognizes a particular font at a specific size, it provides easier and faster recognition of that

font in future use. Thus providing more efficiency of use with time.

One of the program's most important features is its ability to scan an unlimited number of documents and to automatically save them, without any effort or interference in the process by the user. It allows the user to

lizes advanced technology to analyze the contents of documents, through 'Layout Processing', by which the program identifies columns that separate text and data tables, transferring them into *.RTF files; retaining the original contents of the document, saving the user's time and effort in reviewing the text resulting from automatic reading.

One of the new features in Release 2.0 is the program's ability to recognize Tashkeel (Vocalization) of Arabic letters if needed. Also, the program provides a number of flexible options for handling Arabic letters such as the ability to separate Arabic letters which are attached to one another, or attach separate Arabic letters together, and even assemble the different parts of the same letter if not connected. This enables Al Qar'eh Al Aly to handle the Arabic letters of old documents better. In fact, these features are all important to achieve more accuracy of recognition, which is necessary for handling the distinguished nature of the Arabic language, since its letters may be connected, or bent and the different shape that an Arabic letter takes on in different positions in words.

Following in this policy of commitment, Sakhr announced Al Qar'eh Al Aly, Release 2.0, after adding to its features, increasing its usefulness and allowing it to meet even more needs. It has been enabled to run under Microsoft Windows with Arabic as Standard.

In its latest release, Al Qar'eh Al Aly is capable of recognizing the letters of any given font, regardless of the size at which it has previously been used. Even if the font is one or two points bigger or smaller in size, Al Qar'eh Al Aly will recognize it. The new release also uti-

lizes advanced technology to analyze the contents of documents, through 'Layout Processing', by which the program identifies columns that separate text and data tables, transferring them into *.RTF files; retaining the original contents of the document, saving the user's time and effort in reviewing the text resulting from automatic reading.

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Introducing the preferred Fault Tolerant Platform to the local market: IDEAL launches Tandem in Jordan

UNDER THE slogan, 'Tandem Means Business', Ideal Systems announced that it has been appointed as the Jordanian dealer for Tandem Computers.

In an official launch, held at the Amman Marriott Hotel on Wednesday 6 March, 1996, Ideal Systems announced that its alliance with Tandem Computers will provide the right combination for business success.

Tandem claims that it is the only company that 'puts so much processing power in the hands of so many customers, in such a cost-effective manner, while continuing to deliver the benefits of the preferred Fault Tolerant Scalable and Reliable computer systems at absolutely no price-premium.

Tandem has an impressive market share in several areas of computerization in business. For example, 66 percent of all credit card transactions in

the world are handled by Tandem Systems.

Also, 75 percent of all ATM transactions and 50 percent of all electronic funds transfers are also handled by Tandem Systems.



In telecommunications, Tandem has a stronghold with 32 of the world's largest telecommunications companies relying on its systems.

In banking and financial services, almost all of the leading exchanges and five hundred of its most important banks rely on Tandem too.

Tandem is a high profile provider of information technology solutions to corporate clients in the USA.

Of the Computerworld Glo-

bal 100 most outstanding information technology users in the world, there are thirty seven who are already Tandem customers.

It is expected that Tandem's strength internationally, should position it as one of the main providers of information technology platforms in the Middle East.

Ideal Systems will be introducing the many benefits to be gained from the use of Tandem systems in Jordan's different economic sectors, which require reliable, fault tolerant computer solutions.

Ideal Systems is one of the Ideal Group of companies, which also include IdealSoft, Ideal Dimensions and Ideal Tech.

For more information on Tandem in Jordan, contact Ideal Systems at telephone number 688123. ■

News update

Compaq cuts prices, signalling price war

Compaq is reducing its prices by up to 21 percent on some personal computer models, setting off a PC industry price war.

Compaq announced this at the same time it introduced thirty three new personal computer models.

Industry analysts, who learned of the price cut proposals, said the reductions are yet another sign that the computer industry is in for a time of slow growth.

On another note, Hewlett-Packard announced it's cutting prices on its entire HP Net-Server Series and family of disk drives.

Internet in Jordan, this month

Following, several months since it started operations in Amman, Sprint Jordan looks set to launch its Internet service this month.

Sprint had intended to actually launch this service in January 1996, but had to postpone it to February and now will deliver it in March, 1996.

The reasons for this relative lateness have much to do with technical difficulties and the length of procedure required to provide private sector telecommunications services in the country.

In any case, all you Internet enthusiasts out there will be pleased to know that you should be able to open a Sprint Internet account, next month.

Once again, to remind you of the services that will be on offer, there is going to be a dial-up service and their will be a leased line service to access the Internet.

BBS providers like ACCESS and NETS will get leased lines, in order to offer their hundreds of users access to the Internet through their own services.

However, the user will use a dial-up method to access the BBS first, then go into Internet.

As for 'direct' single, or home users, the method of access will probably be direct dial-up, to hook up to a Sprint server, that should take you onto the Internet. ■

(*MAG). Al Qar'eh Al Aly 2.0 also enables users to transform files of this format to *.PCX and *.TIF formats.

As the previous release provided a number of functions to enable the user to draw frames inside documents, highlighting the parts of the document which were intended to be recognized, indicating that the rest of document was not to be, release 2.0 of Al Qar'eh Al Aly adds to these frames functionality that enables elimination of spaces between columns or paragraphs and pictures.

The program also provides complete integration with Sakhr's different applications including Sakhr's Arabic Full Text Database (AFTDB). This

is achieved by Al Qar'eh Al Aly's built-in support for DDE (Dynamic Data Linking & Embedding) under Microsoft Windows.

Release 2.0 also supports Sakhr's Semantic Analyzer which can be run during the text recognition process for results with even better detail.

Based on these many powerful features, the second release of Al Qar'eh Al Aly (Automatic Reader) presents the most efficient method to create Arabic text documents and to build Arabic databases and information banks at the lowest possible cost, effectively saving the user's time and effort. ■

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

What's the bps rate to look for?: Shopping for a modem

WELL, EVERYONE is telling you how great it is to have email and on-line services, but no one actually talks about that crucial piece of hardware that needs to be added to your PC before you can do that.

The modem, in simple terms, is a communications box, that fits into one of your PC slots, and allows you to connect your telephone to your computer.

With two jack outlets on the back of the modem, one incoming from the wall's telephone outlet and the other outgoing from your modem into your telephone—and after installing the suitable software and drivers—your modem becomes fully functional and can automatically take over your telephone line with the press of a button.

You're probably wondering, what is considered to be a good modem which will enable you to effectively connect to on-line services?

Well, in the quest of shopping for a modem, there's some basic terminology that you need to understand. Modems are classified according to baud rate, which is the rate of communication at which your modem talks to you telephone line.

Baud rate is measured in bits per second, referred to as 'bps' for short.

There is much confusion among users about the issue of maximum baud rates offered by telephone lines in Jordan. Put all arguments you hear aside and be sure that you get yourself a modem with at least 14.4 kbps.

Most computer companies in Jordan, and also specialized computer supplies shops, offer a variety of modem brands. You can expect prices of 14.4 bps modems to range from JD90 all the way up to JD300. What's the difference between them? Well, for a start, certain well-known brands like Motorola are supposed to be much more reliable. In the words of a modem sales man, "a good modem means your connection won't be cut-off in the middle of access."

This, from experience, is true but not to an extent that requires you to go out and splash a couple of hundred Dinars on a so-called 'reliable modem'. It really depends what you want to use the modem for. A home user, not running critical connectivity activities, should be just fine with an average modem brand, starting at around JD 90.

The next issue is whether you should go for an internal or external modem. At one time, external modems, elegantly shaped boxes that sit on your desk beside your computer, offered better performance to users and where more expensive than their internal counterparts. However, nowadays, internal modems, which are bare cards that work from inside your CPU case, can deliver equal performance. There is no need to worry about differences in performance. An internal modem will do the job just as well.

Getting back to baud rates, the latest modems on the market offer 28.8 kbps, effectively delivering performance that is double 14.4 kbps modems.

These, of course, cost more than 14.4 modems and are yet to become a mainstream choice. For now, you can stick with a 14.4 kbps box.

Anyway, our education about modems is bound to get better soon, with the introduction of Internet services in the country. It is expected that there should be an explosion in modem supply in the country. It's one of the things hardware shops and suppliers in the country are counting on this year.

Personally, I'm still using my 2.4 kbps modem, which I bought from the USA for the humble sum of \$40. If Internet services are to arrive in the country soon, I will surely have to replace my modem with a nifty 14.4 kbps one. Actually, I expect that their will be a fall in the prices of modems soon. For now, happy modemming everyone. ■

Cyprus

The land of mysteries and sun

Encircled by strong fortress walls built by the Venetians in the 16th century, the enchanting city is scattered with buildings and monuments of historical interest as well as little shops, cafes and tavernas.

CYPRUS IS an island of contrasts and a country of contrasts. Cool, pine-clad mountains and golden sun-kissed beaches are striking contrast to cosmopolitan towns; luxurious beachside hotels can be exchanged for large areas of natural, unspoiled countryside.

Cyprus Airways arranged a three-day visit for a group of journalists to experience the wonders of the island.

At a time when holidays are clouded by safety consciousness, a feeling of security prevails as the crime level is low.

Cleanthis Nafis, the director of the Cyprus Tourism Organization, Middle East and Gulf Countries, said that tourism must be promoted in the area.

"We are neighbours, the dis-

tance between us is not that much and there are many similarities between our peoples, climate and cultures," he told the journalists upon their arrival to Larnaka.

Mr Awni Madain, the regional Manager of Cyprus Airways in Jordan organized the trip.

Few countries can trace the course of their history over 9,000 years, but in about 6,500 BC, Cyprus was already inhabited and going through its Neolithic Age.

The Greeks came to the island over 3,000 years ago. They settled down bringing with them the Greek identity, language and civilization.

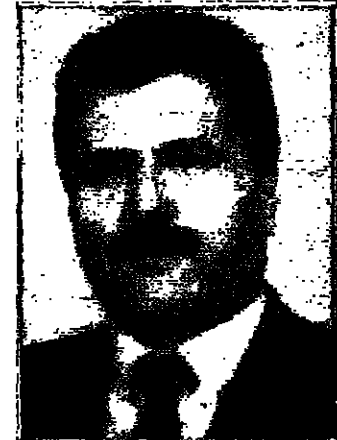
Due to its climate and variety of scenery, the island



Cleanthis Nafis



Tassos Angelis



Awni Madain

offers endless opportunities for nature lovers and outdoor sports fans. Activities such as angling, mountain-biking, hiking, gliding, golf, seaports and yachting are but a few of the special activities that the island offers.

The journalists were taken to different areas in Cyprus and stayed the three nights in different luxurious hotels to experience the Cypriot hospitality.

Cyprus is rich in culture, its importance is recognized by UNESCO which has included nine of the island's Byzantine mountain churches and town of Kato Pafos in its World Cultural Heritage List.

The 1000 year-old capital, Nicosia should be on every visitor's agenda. It lies in the center of the island.

within easy reach of the other towns.

Encircled by strong fortress walls built by the Venetians in the 16th century, the enchanting city is scattered with buildings and monuments of historical interest as well as little shops, cafes and tavernas.

To walk through the old city

is to step in time. Narrow streets and old houses with ornate balconies just from weather beaten sandstone walls, and craftsmen in small workshops practice unchanged for centuries.

Nicosia has developed outside the walls a center of business and culture. The city is regarded as the shopping heart of Cyprus, with a variety of restaurants, discos and bars.

Limassol is a resort with a 10-mile coastline, a busy shopping centre, countless tavernas and restaurants and a night life to suit many tastes.

A visit to the places of interest would include Lefkara Castle, which houses, the Cyprus Medieval Museum, the District Archaeological Museum, the Folk Art Museum, the Lemnos Municipal Art Gallery, and the Municipal Gardens.

Other cities of interest interest include Larnaka, Pafos, the

sunny Ammochostos and the Troodos.

The Jordanian group of journalists met with Tassos Angelis, the public affairs

manager of Cyprus Airways. He said that the airports is seeking close cooperation with Royal Jordanian to boost tourism in the area. ■



Tourism

Most cherished prize

With 1994 tourism to Cyprus continued to increase. Good results were recorded both in the arrival of tourists and in foreign exchange receipts.

Visitor arrivals increased by 7.5% in 1994 compared to 1993 and reached 221,637. Of these 206,900 were long stay visitors (tourists) with 12.4% increase over the corresponding figure of 1993 and 14,637. One-day visitors (excursionists) increased by 2.2% over 1993. Revenue from tourism is estimated to have reached CY£18.0 millions. About 89% of tourists came from Europe.

According to the results of survey in 1994, the majority of tourist belonged to the professional, technical and administrative occupational group. They were university and post-secondary school graduates, came from the middle income class and were mostly between the ages of 30-54 age group. About 38% of tourist were repeat visitors and 84% used licensed accommo-

dation establishments.

The most popular period among holiday makers was again the third quarter of the year and the arrivals during the months July-September represented 39.1% on total.

Cyprus has been established as a significant business and financial centre. A sector which has experienced tremendous growth has been that of offshore businesses, with more than 8000 such entities now having been established on the island. The term offshore business is used to denote a Cyprus registered company owned by aliens operating outside Cyprus. The imposition of low taxes, the generally low costs facilities and concessions often extended to offshore businesses, are probably among the most important advantages which attracted a great number of foreign companies and individuals to operate under the offshore concept.

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